DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Steely Sunrisers seal the deal

Kishan, Cummins take Hyderabad into playoffs; GT too qualify

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Musk loses blockbuster OpenAI suit as jury says too late

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year

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BCCI does not fall under RTI ambit: Central Information Commission

'Not a public authority, no substantial govt funding'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not fall under the Right to Information (RTI) regime, as it is not a "public authority" set up by any law or has any substantial financing by the Central government, said the Central Information Commission (CIC) on Monday.

The order by Information Commissioner P R Ramesh came after the Madras High Court "remitted back" the issue to the CIC in September 2025 while hearing an appeal filed by the BCCI against a CIC order in October 2018 that held that the cricketing body was a "public authority" that came under RTI.

The order also came eight months after the Union government dropped plans to bring sports bodies like the BCCI out of the RTI's ambit by moving amendments to the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025, that would bring only sports bodies that received government funds inside the transparency regime.

Private body

Reversing the 2018 order, Ramesh said the BCCI was an autonomous private body governed by its own rules and regulations.

He added that the government also had no role in appointing its office-bearers or in its internal functioning.

"The BCCI generates revenue independently through commercial activities like media rights, sponsorships, and ticket sales. It... does not rely on government funds. Therefore, it cannot be said to be substantially financed by the state," said Ramesh.

The order said the BCCI, being registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975, and not under any statute, was only a "private association of individuals" and not owned, controlled, or substantially financed by the government.

'Charitable in nature'

Ramesh said the income-tax exemption given to the BCCI to fulfil the objective of promoting cricket, which was "charitable in nature", did not arise from any special dispensation but was available to entities pursuing charitable purposes as defined in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

In the "Obiter Dicta" (remarks made in passing) in the order, he said the assumption that increased governmental supervision was sufficient to secure proper functioning of an organisation was intuitively appealing, but was "overly simplistic" and did not "adequately account for the complexities" of modern economic institutions.

The BCCI's dominance was "rooted in the simple but powerful reality" that India constituted the most commercially valuable cricket market in the world, and at the heart of this economic structure lay the IPL, he said, adding that this model and the media-rights regime had redefined the sport's financial architecture.

Ramesh said the IPL accounted for a substantial portion of the BCCI's revenue, while other income sources included international media rights, sponsorship arrangements, and its significant share in global revenues distributed by the International Cricket Council.

Panel submits report on Varma impeachment to LS Speaker

Justice Yashwant Varma

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Judges Inquiry Committee looking into the impeachment notice against the Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, submitted its report to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday.

"The report, which was presented in accordance with the statutory requirements under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, will be laid before both Houses of Parliament in due course," a release from the Lok Sabha Secretariat said.

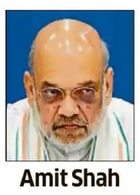
The three-member inquiry committee was constituted by the Speaker on August 12 last year. The panel has as members Presiding Officer Justice Aravind Kumar of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Senior Advocate of the Karnataka High Court B V Acharya.

The impeachment notice was filed by Opposition MPs after unaccounted cash was found at Justice Varma's residence during a fire. The Supreme Court then paused his judicial duties.

Justice Varma filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court against the Parliamentary panel, which was dismissed in January this year. He then resigned from his office on April 9, a month prior to the submission of the panel's report.

India is now Maoist-free, Shah declares in Bastar

JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH), PTI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday asserted that India is now "by and large" free from three main internal security problems of Naxalism, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and insurgency in the Northeast.



Amit Shah

Speaking in the former Maoist stronghold of Jagdalpur, Bastar, Shah said the Centre and the state government are working with full commitment to ensure lasting peace and progress in the region, and it will emerge as the most developed tribal area of the country within the next five years.

Shah urged the people of Bastar to "accept" about 3,000 surrendered Naxals and help in their assimilation into the national mainstream.

"It is a big day for the country today, as India is Naxal-free. This was a dream that has been achieved after numerous security personnel sacrificed their lives in operations," Shah said at an event held at the campus of the Bastar Academy of Dance, Art and Literature.

Severe heatwave over northwest, central India, warns IMD

NEW DELHI, PTI: Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are likely to prevail over the plains of northwest and central India during the week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The department stated that a gradual rise in maximum temperatures by two to three degrees Celsius is likely over many parts of northwest India from Monday to May 24, and by three to four degrees over Chhattisgarh till May 21. "No significant change in maximum temperatures is likely over Maharashtra and Gujarat, till May 18," said IMD.

Fertiliser subsidy bill may rise by Rs 70,000 cr

Stocks comfortable despite rising import costs: Centre

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

CRISIS IMPACT

- Current stocks stand at 200.9 lakh tonne, more than 51% of the total requirement of 390 lakh tonne for the season
- Domestic production is currently running at approximately 80,000 tonnes per day
- India is actively diversifying import routes to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz

The Centre's fertiliser subsidy bill for 2026-27 is likely to surge by around Rs 70,000 crore to Rs 2.41 lakh crore, driven by rising global prices and higher import costs of urea and other fertilisers amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.

The budgetary allocation for the year stands at Rs 1.71 lakh crore. "The subsidy bill will go up, but what percentage is something I cannot say," Aparna S Sharma, Additional Secretary in the Department of Fertilisers, told reporters here.

When asked whether the increase could be as much as Rs 70,000 crore, she replied, "Maybe."

Despite the cost pressures, Sharma assured that fertiliser availability for the upcoming 2026 kharif season remains comfortable.

Import sourcing

Current stocks stand at 200.9 lakh tonne, which is more than 51 per cent of the total requirement of 390 lakh tonne for the season. The remaining gap is being met through diversified import sourcing.

Domestic production is currently running at approximately 80,000 tonne per day. Since the onset of the West Asia crisis, output has been 86.2 lakh tonne, marginally lower than the 93 lakh tonne recorded during the corresponding period last year. "There is a small shortfall which we hope to cover in the coming months," Sharma noted.

She added that sufficient gas supply is available for urea plants. India has also been actively diversifying its import routes to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz.

More than 22 lakh tonne of fertilisers have already landed on Indian shores through alternative routes. Through a consortium-based procurement strategy, the government has secured about 13.5 lakh tonne of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and 7 lakh tonne of NPK complexes, along with ammonium sulphate, phosphate and other raw materials.

The Department of Fertilisers is also reviewing the availability of other inputs required for urea and complex fertiliser manufacturing.

Subsidy payments are being cleared on a weekly basis through the Integrated Fertilizer Management System.

"Overall, the situation remains strong, stable and comfortable," Sharma said.

Suvendu govt ends religious allowances for imams, purohits

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Police personnel stand guard as a municipal worker removes a hoarding featuring former West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and her associates n Kolkata on Monday. PTI

The new BJP government in West Bengal on Monday decided to discontinue from next month the scheme — introduced by the previous Trinamool Congress (TMC) regime — that provided monthly honorariums to the imams and muezzins of mosques, as well as temple priests.

The move came even as Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari issued a stern warning against "vandalism" and "hooliganism" as well as attacks on police personnel during protests.

"Political and religious organisations can hold programmes after informing the police. However, gathering people, raising religious slogans, and pelting stones cannot go on. Stone-pelting at police has stopped in Jammu and Kashmir, and I think it will stop in West Bengal as well," he said on Monday.

He added that the police had arrested nearly 40 people in connection with the unrest in Kolkata's Park Circus during protests on Sunday against the demolition of allegedly illegal construction in some areas of the city inhabited mostly by members of the minority community. "There will be zero tolerance towards this kind of unrest, hooliganism and anti-national, anti-social activities. We will not allow such things to continue," he said.

Adhikari also said that the state government had constituted two commissions — headed by retired Calcutta High Court judges — to investigate the alleged institutional corruption and atrocities against women and girl children during the previous TMC government's tenure. The CM said that both panels would start work on June 1.

"The Cabinet has approved the discontinuation of schemes based on religious categorisation," Minister for Welfare of Women and Children Agnimitra Paul told journalists after a state Cabinet meeting.

The allocation in the state budget for the payment of monthly honorariums to imams, muezzins, and priests would be scrapped, she indicated.

Imams of registered mosques in West Bengal were being provided a monthly honorarium of Rs 3,000, while muezzins and priests received Rs 2,000 every month.

The government has, however, not yet decided on the scheme introduced by the previous regime to provide financial assistance to Durga Puja organisers.

The state's BJP government has also introduced the "Annapurna Yojana" to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 3000, replacing 'Lakshmir Bhandar' — a similar scheme introduced by the previous regime in 2021 — albeit with a lower monthly payout.

The state Cabinet on Monday also approved free travel for women on government buses from June 1.

CAA applicants must declare passport status, says Centre

NEW DELHI, PTI: Applicants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh seeking Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Rules, 2009, will now have to give a declaration about the status of their passport from their native country, according to a notification issued by the Home Ministry on Monday.

The ministry has amended the Citizenship Rules, 2009, introducing a paragraph under which the applicant should not be in possession of a valid and/or expired passport issued by the governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh.

In case the applicant is carrying an active passport, the person will have to submit the passport number and other details such as date and place of issuance and date of expiry, the gazette notification said.

First look of India's proposed bullet train between Mumbai, Ahmedabad unveiled

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A large image of the train is now on display at Gate Number 4 of Rail Bhavan.

Indian Railways on Monday unveiled the design of the country's first bullet train, which will operate on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor.

A large image of the train is now on display at Gate Number 4 of Rail Bhavan, the Ministry of Railways headquarters.

The sleek train, designed for speeds of 280 kmph, marks a major milestone for India's maiden high-speed rail project.

Once fully operational, the 508-km corridor will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to around two hours. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be launched on August 15, 2027.

The train-design unveiling follows a major construction milestone in Mumbai. On Sunday, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) lowered the first Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) cutterhead at Vikhroli. The 13.6-metre-diameter cutterhead weighs 350 tonnes.

Two giant TBMs, each over 3,000 tonnes, are being assembled for the project. They are expected to help build a 16-km section of the 21-km Mumbai tunnel. This includes India's first 7-km undersea rail tunnel beneath Thane Creek.

The TBMs are the largest ever used for rail tunnels in India. A 6-km stretch from Vikhroli to Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) will be excavated using these machines.

The project covers Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It will reportedly have 12 stations, including Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Surat, Vadodara, and Ahmedabad.

The foundation work is complete at eight Gujarat stations, and is underway at stations in Maharashtra, with the BKC station excavation nearly 91% done. Seventeen river bridges have been completed so far.

ED arrests AAP's Singla after raids in 'bank fraud' case

NEW DELHI, PTI: The ED on Monday arrested AAP leader Deepak Singla in connection with an alleged multi-crore money laundering case arising out of a Rs 150 crore scam in the Oriental Bank of Commerce, officials said.

The arrest followed coordinated searches at multiple premises linked to Singla and several hawala operators across Delhi and Goa, they said.

The ED action triggered sharp reactions from the AAP. Senior party leaders, including its convenor Arvind Kejriwal, slammed the raids, accusing the central government of using federal agencies as a political tool ahead of the Goa elections.

Singla was taken into custody after the raids led to the alleged recovery of incriminating documents.

It is the second time in two years that Singla has faced action by the federal agency. He was raided by the ED in 2024.

Parl panel summons NTA chief over NEET-UG paper leak

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A parliamentary standing committee has summoned National Testing Agency (NTA) Chairperson Pradeep Kumar Joshi and senior Education Ministry officials to appear before it on May 21, seeking answers on two fronts: the extent to which a high-level reform panel's recommendations have been implemented, and the status of the CBI probe into the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, scheduled the meeting following a Rajya Sabha notice. Vineet Joshi, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, has also been asked to appear.

The NEET-UG examination, conducted on May 3 for over 23 lakh registered candidates, was cancelled after the NTA said it had received credible information about malpractice on the evening of May 7. A re-examination has now been scheduled for June 21. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has separately announced that the examination will move to a computer-based format from next year.

At the centre of the committee's review is the K Radhakrishnan Committee report — a blueprint containing 101 recommendations for structural reforms within the NTA — submitted to the Education Ministry in October 2024. The expert panel, constituted in June 2024 after an earlier paper leak controversy, was chaired by former Isro chairman K Radhakrishnan and included academicians from IIT Madras, IIT Delhi and the University of Hyderabad.

Apart from the NTA issue, the panel will also hear submissions on May 21 from representatives of IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, Infosys, Pratham on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on education and graduate employability.

CBI arrests Maharashtra professor in NEET leak case

NEW DELHI, DHNS

CRIME NETWORK

- Shivaraj Motegaonkar is the owner of RCC Coaching Institute, which has nine branches
- RCC Coaching offers classes to students appearing for NEET-UG examination
- Motegaonkar is close to P V Kulkarni, the Chemistry lecturer who was arrested last Friday

A professor running a coaching institute in Maharashtra is the latest to land in the CBI net in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, with investigators on Monday claiming that he was in close contact with alleged kingpin P V Kulkarni.

The arrested accused has been identified as Prof Shivaraj Motegaonkar, owner of RCC Coaching Institute. He runs the institute, which has nine branches including one in Latur, and offers coaching to students appearing for the NEET-UG examination.

"He is close to P V Kulkarni, a Chemistry lecturer associated with the NTA. Searches conducted at his institute and residence resulted in the recovery of a Chemistry question bank containing exactly the same questions that appeared in the NEET exam held on May 3," the CBI said in a statement.

The agency said that in the last 24 hours it had also conducted searches at five locations and seized several documents, laptops and mobile phones. Detailed analysis of the seized items is under way, it added.

The CBI had arrested Kulkarni last Friday, alleging that he, along with one Manisha Waghmare, conducted special coaching classes for students at his residence in Pune. He had allegedly "dictated questions along with options and correct answers, and the questions so dictated were handwritten by students in their notebooks and exactly matched the actual question paper".

The agency also arrested senior Botany lecturer Manisha Gurunath Mandhare from Pune last Saturday, with investigators claiming that the "actual source" of the leak of the Chemistry and Biology papers, as well as the middlemen involved in mobilising students, had been identified.

Mandhare was arrested following questioning at the CBI headquarters in Delhi. The questioning of alleged kingpin Kulkarni, a Chemistry lecturer, and Manisha Waghmare, who had been arrested earlier, led investigators to Mandhare's alleged involvement in the paper leak.

The CBI said the investigation conducted so far had "brought out the actual source of the leakage" of the Chemistry and Biology papers, as well as the "middlemen involved in mobilising students who paid lakhs of rupees" to attend the special coaching classes.

Jairam Ramesh moves privilege notice against Pradhan

Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress Rajya Sabha Chief Whip Jairam Ramesh on Monday submitted a notice seeking initiation of breach of privilege proceedings against Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for his "outrageous" remarks about Parliamentary Standing Committees.

While addressing the media on May 15 following the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 examination, the minister said a parliamentary panel has opposition members, who "write things in a certain manner".

Pradhan was replying to a question on why his ministry had not implemented the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports headed by senior Congress MP Digvijaya Singh, in its report on the National Testing Agency.

"I will speak about the High-level Committee of Experts (HLCE)/Radhakrishnan Committee... I won't speak on the standing committee," the minister had said.

Terming the minister's conduct as a "grave breach of privilege and contempt" of the House, Ramesh invoked Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Council of States (Rajya Sabha) in his letter to Chairman CP Radhakrishnan.

'Highly derogatory'

Ramesh said the minister's remarks were "highly derogatory and seek to malign parliamentarians, parliamentary committees and Parliament".

"The minister's impugned comments clearly indicate and reveal his contempt for the Parliament, parliamentary committees, members of the parliamentary committee that are drawn from all political parties and India's constitutional democracy itself. He has deliberately lowered the stature and prestige of the institution of the standing committee simply because of its bipartisan nature," Ramesh said.

Kanpur police bust pan-India education fraud racket; 2 arrested

KANPUR (UP), PTI: Kanpur police have unearthed a massive fake degree racket allegedly operating across several states, supplying forged marksheets, migration certificates and professional degrees without candidates appearing for examinations, a top official said here on Monday.

In a joint operation by the Kidwai Nagar Police and Special Investigation Team (SIT), two alleged masterminds, Manish alias Ravi (40) of Hyderabad and Arjun Yadav of Unnao, were arrested for running what police described as a highly organised "home delivery" network of fake educational documents.

Police said that the gang had been active for years and provided forged certificates, ranging from high school and graduation documents to postgraduate, LLB, BPharma and even PhD degrees.

During the raids, the police recovered around 80 fake migration certificates and forged marksheets.

Bengaluru Tuesday, May 19, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 138 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Satheesan-led UDF govt takes charge in Kerala

First Cabinet meeting decides to implement free bus rides for women from June 15

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Business

Rupee settles at record low of 96.20

P.12

Nation

Suvendu govt ends religious allowances for imams, purohits

Nation
Ebola in Africa: India initiates measures P.8

Business
TCS gives 5% average hike P.12

Bail is rule, jail is exception even in UAPA cases: SC

Court critical of another bench's order declining relief to Umar Khalid

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday stressed that the principle 'bail is the rule and jail is the exception' holds even for the UAPA cases, while expressing reservations about a previous judgment delivered by another bench of the apex court that declined bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots case.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan emphasised at the legal doctrine in its judgment, granting bail to J&K resident Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, who has been in jail since June 2020 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with a narco-terrorism case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

"It is clear beyond doubt that the preference for bail, or the often invoked principle 'bail is the rule and jail is the exception' flows from the constitutional primacy of personal liberty under Article 21 and, therefore, cannot be displaced by legislation," the bench said.

The bench said that bail should be the rule even in the UAPA cases and the right to a speedy trial cannot be defeated merely because an accused has been booked under this stringent anti-terror law.

The court also noted the country-wide percentage of conviction under the UAPA in the 2019-23 period hovers between 2% to 6%. In other words, there is a 94% to 98% possibility of acquittal in such cases.

The court underscored Section 43-D(5) of the UAPA remains subordinate to Article 21 at all times and a constitutional court need not hold back bail to the accused in the garb of the former law.

"The statutory embargo of Section 43-D(5) must remain a circumscribed restriction that operates subject to the guarantee of Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution," the bench said.

▸ Supreme Court, Page 5

Nagarathna, Bhuyan bench questions...

- The aspect of **Jan 5 order** which foreclosed the right of petitioners to seek bail for one year
- Says **Jan 5** order didn't properly follow the judgment in **K A Najeeb case,** which recognised long delay in trial as a ground for bail even in UAPA cases
- Rules that **judgment in Najeeb case** is a binding law that cannot be diluted, circumvented or disregarded by trial courts, HCs or even by benches of a lower strength of apex court
- States that the principle **'bail is the rule and jail is the exception'** is not merely an empty statutory slogan
- The principle flows from the Constitution & presumption of innocence
- **Section 43-D(5) of the UAPA,** which outlines stringent bail restrictions, operates subject to guarantee of Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution

> "The annual rate of conviction is always less than 1% (for the 2019-23 period). With such statistics staring at our face, the question is, should we continue the detention of the appellant or defer the consideration to a later stage, simply because the charges are serious?
> SC

Why bail to Andrabi?

1. Court says there is no recovery of cash or contraband
2. All statements & confessions implicating the appellant have been made before the police and are self-incriminating, and violate law
3. Appellant has no prior antecedents of being connected with narcotic trade or in terrorist activities
4. Appellant is supporter of Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, a registered mainstream political party

Bidadi township: Land acquisition to hit small farmers

More than 80% of 10k affected farmers own less than one acre of land

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A whopping 82% of the 10,580 farmers whose lands are notified for the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) in Bidadi own less than an acre, official document shows. What's more, around 2,500 farmers own less than 5 guntas of land. The figures show the land acquisition will predominantly affect ordinary agrarian families, raising concerns about loss of livelihood, limited bargaining power and fewer compensation options.

Officials, however, dismissed the fears of displacement, stating that every small and marginal land owner can opt for 'developed site' as compensation on a pro-rata basis for parting with their farmland. They also said that only a "small percentage" of landowners have raised objections.

According to village-wise data accessed by *DH*, as many as 10,580 landowners fall within the acquisition bracket of the proposed project spread across nine villages including Hosuru, Byramangala, Kanchugaranahalli, Bannigiri and Aralalasandra.

The project, popularly known as Bidadi township, will come up on 7,481 acres. The state government is expected to issue the final notification for acquiring the land in a week's time.

Small holders form overwhelming majority

2,257 owners hold between 20-40 guntas	2,216 owners have 10-20 guntas	1,652 owners hold 5-10 guntas	1,366 owners have 2-5 guntas

In comparison, the number of large landholders is extremely limited:

- Only **30 owners** hold between **5-10 acres**
- Just **one owner** each falls in the **10-20 acre** and **20-30 acre** brackets

What stands out in the data is the highly fragmented nature of land ownership in and around Bidadi.

Over 8,600 farmers own less than an acre, indicating that the affected families are dependent on modest agriculture and do not come from well-to-do families. About 1,900 families possess more than an acre. Just one owner each falls in the 10-20 acre and 20-30 acre brackets.

"I have 15 guntas of farmland and the entire piece of land has been notified for the project," Manjunath, a resident of Byramangala, said. "I have raised my two kids without facing any financial hardship. One of them is an engineering student in Bengaluru. If I lose the agricultural land, what work will I be able to do? I don't want to work under someone else," he said.

According to records, the largest concentration of affected farmers fall in the 10-20 guntas and 20-40 guntas categories.

▸ Bidadi, Page 5

Govt tells state banks to use EVs, video calls to cut fuel use

BLOOMBERG: India's state-run banks have been directed by the government to use video conferencing facilities for meetings and limit overseas travel to reduce fuel usage and preserve foreign exchange reserves.

All state-run financial entities, including banks and insurance companies, have also been asked to hire electric vehicles, while transitioning their existing petrol-and-diesel-powered vehicles to an electric fleet, according to a document seen by *Bloomberg News*.

The development comes amid a series of austerity measures put in place to reduce the pressure on forex reserves. The government notification dated May 18 also states that heads of state-run financial entities should use video conferencing for meetings held overseas. A finance ministry spokesperson didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

US extends sanction waiver on Russian seaborne oil, P9

Iran announces new Hormuz body

Iran's top security body announced on Monday the formation of a new body to manage the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran wants to charge ships to traverse. P9

State bracing for fertiliser shortage, says agri minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state is bracing for a fertiliser shortage, said Agriculture Minister Chaluvaraya Swamy on Monday.

Current data indicate a nationwide supply deficit, with diammonium phosphate (DAP) supply falling short by 38,000 metric tonnes and Urea facing a 14,000 metric tonne deficit this month alone.

Addressing the logistical realities of fertiliser procurement, the minister pointed out that state governments have minimal control over the production ecosystem.

"The entire responsibility for manufacturing, importing raw materials, managing supply logistics, and fixing retail prices lies with the Central government," Chaluvaraya Swamy said.

"The state's role is strictly limited to distribution and monitoring around 20% to 30% of the movement, as shipments flow directly from the manufacturers to the dealers and sub-dealers," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently advised states to encourage reduced chemical fertiliser usage in anticipation of global supply chain disruptions.

In response, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a high-level review meeting with District Commissioners (DCs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to enforce alternative solutions, including Nano Urea, Nano DAP, and organic manure.

▸ Fertiliser, Page 5

Subsidy bill to surge by Rs 70,000 cr

Driven by rising global prices and higher import, the Centre's fertiliser subsidy bill for 2026-27 is likely to surge by around Rs 70,000 crore to Rs 2.41 lakh crore, said Aparna S Sharma, Additional Secretary in the Department of Fertilisers.

Tourist crushed to death after jumbos clash

MADIKERI, DHNS: A woman tourist from Chennai was crushed to death after getting caught in a fight between two tamed elephants at the Dubare Elephant Camp in Kushalnagar, Kodagu district, on Monday. The deceased was identified as Joysi (33). Her husband, Joel, and their one-year-old child had a narrow escape.

The incident occurred when tourists were watching elephant Marthanda being given a bath by mahouts. Suddenly, elephant Kanjan attacked Marthanda, causing the latter to fall on Joysi.

Members of a rafting team, who witnessed the incident from a distance, rushed to the spot and helped shift the severely injured woman to a hospital. However, doctors there declared her "brought dead".

Related report on Page 3

Elephant Kanjan attacks Marthanda at Dubare Elephant Camp

India, Norway agree for 'green strategic' ties

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India and Norway on Monday elevated their bilateral relations to a 'green strategic partnership' as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart in the Northern European nation, Jonas Gahr Støre, met in Oslo and witnessed the signing of agreements for cooperation in space, digital development, health and technology.

New Delhi and Oslo also inked an agreement for specialised consultancy services for the construction of tunnels and capacity building. Modi has called for greater Norwegian investments in India in key sectors.

Details on Page 5B
Modi ignores scribe, P5B

AFTER SHOWER

Vehicles wade through a waterlogged road in Matadahalli in RT Nagar following rains, in Bengaluru, on Monday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Rain reports, Page 2

US Justice Dept drops charges against Adani

NEW DELHI/NEW YORK, PTI: The US Department of Justice has permanently dropped all criminal charges against Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar, bringing high-profile securities and wire fraud case in New York to a complete close after prosecutors concluded they could not sustain the allegations. With this, multiple US regulatory and legal investigations involving the group have all closed.

Last week, the US Securities and Exchange Commission settled civil allegations against the two men tied to disclosures made to investors in connection with solar energy projects in India.

Details on Page 12

Quickly

BCCI not a public authority under RTI: CIC

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not come under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, as it is not a 'public authority' set up by any law or has any substantial financing by the government, the Central Information Commission (CIC) said on Monday.

ED arrests AAP leader in money laundering case

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday arrested AAP leader Deepak Singla in connection with an alleged multi-crore money laundering case arising out of a Rs 150 crore scam in the Oriental Bank of Commerce, officials said.

India targets $1 trillion exports this fiscal: Goyal

India's exports remain resilient despite global challenges like West Asia conflict and the US tariffs and are expected to increase to $1 trillion in the current financial year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

Details on Page 12

KSRTC invokes 'no work, no pay' for absentees

Ahead of the planned strike of the state transport corporation employees on May 20, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Managing Director Akram Pasha has urged the employees not to join the protests, warning of disciplinary action of 'no work, no pay' against absentees.

Details on Page 3

13 killed in tempo-truck collision in Maharashtra

At least 13 people were killed and over 20 others injured after a container truck collided with a vehicle carrying a wedding party in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Monday. A tempo packed with more than 40 passengers collided with the container truck.

Details on Page 5B

Key accused in Bengal CM's aide murder held

The CBI on Monday arrested Raj Kumar Singh, believed to be a key accused in the murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandrakant Rath, officials said Monday.

ANALYSIS

Cong faces anti-incumbency shadow before poll run-up

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the Congress government completes three years and enters the political "business end" of its tenure, despondency is growing within the party over unresolved issues, especially the leadership dispute between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar.

The government is holding a *Sadhana Samavesha* in Tumakuru on Tuesday to mark three years in office. In fact, the government will reach the milestone on May 20. However, a strike by transport unions on May 20 forced it to advance the celebrations.

Karnataka will face its next general election in May 2028. For all practical purposes, the government is left with just one more budget before everyone switches to election mode.

In the first three years, the government has struggled with perception. The five 'guarantee' schemes — a pioneering effort towards universal basic income — stand out as an achievement of a government that has had trouble telling people that it has more to offer.

Any and all policy brilliance, such as the government's efforts to fight corruption by introducing counselling-based transfers and the bold excise reforms, has been dimmed by politics fueled by internal camp wars.

Pundits agree that Congress faltered in its handling of the leadership dispute between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. "A perception built that nothing else was happening except for their one-upmanship," one political analyst said.

HDD firm about alliance with BJP

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) Chief HD Deve Gowda on Monday ascertained that his party's alliance with BJP will continue even for 2028 assembly elections in Karnataka.

Details on Page 3

The tussle has also delayed the long-pending Cabinet reshuffle. "If the Cabinet reshuffle happens, it means Siddaramaiah will continue as the CM. A delay in the reshuffle means uncertainty over his continuation," senior lawmaker KN Rajanna said recently. The delay has hit more than a dozen lawmakers who are aspiring to become ministers in a government that badly needs a morale booster. Political consultant Venkatesh Thogarighatta warned of "fatigue" as Congress heads into the election year. "It's natural for fatigue to start setting in, more so because the best of the governance came in the first six months in the form of five guarantees," he said.

"The time-tested antidotes for fatigue, or anti-incumbency, are launching mega initiatives and an infusion of fresh blood into the government. Considering the limited fiscal room, the second option is eminently doable. A judicious combination of these two would do a world of good as the party goes into the election year," Thogarighatta said.

CITY RHYTHM HIT: Airport highway, underpasses & key junctions submerged; commuters battle traffic snarls

Peak-hour rain chaos returns as roads flood across city

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rain accompanied by persistent showers lashed several parts of the city on Monday evening, throwing traffic out of gear and catching peak-hour commuters off guard.

While the sudden spell brought relief from the summer heat, it quickly turned into a civic nightmare as key roads, underpasses and junctions were flooded.

The downpour, which lasted between 45 minutes and an hour in several areas, triggered flash floods, waterlogging and multiple trees fall incidents.

Since the rain coincided with the evening rush hour, vehicular movement slowed across the city, with two-wheelers, autos and BMTC buses forced to move through flooded stretches.

Showers after brief break

After a short break, pre-monsoon showers returned to the city on Monday, with northern parts receiving particularly heavy rainfall during the evening.

Data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre's (KSNDMC) Varunamitra dashboard showed that, as of 8.30 pm on Monday, Byatarayanapura recorded the highest rainfall at 65.5 mm, followed by Banaswadi at 61 mm.

East Manorayanapalya recorded 55 mm rainfall, while Pulakeshinagar and V Nagenahalli recorded 46 mm each. At least 30 wards in the city received more than 10 mm rainfall.

The Automatic Weather Station at GKVK recorded 40 mm rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. During the same period, the Bengaluru district AWS recorded 23.5 mm rainfall. The India Meteorological Department's Bengaluru Airport observatory recorded 4.7 mm rainfall.

The maximum temperature on Monday remained close to 34 degrees Celsius, one degree above the average maximum temperature for May.

Over the next two days, the maximum temperature is expected to remain around 33 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature is likely to hover around 22 degrees Celsius.

The IMD said the city is likely to receive light to moderate rainfall accompanied by gusty winds on Tuesday as well.

Rainfall activity is expected to reduce from Wednesday, with only a few areas likely to receive light rain. The monsoon is expected to set in during the first week of June.

Waterlogging & flooding

Major commercial and residential areas, including Shivajinagar, Malleswaram, Corporation Circle, Majestic, KR Market, Chamarajpet, Rajajinagar and Vasanth Nagar, received heavy rainfall.

The situation near Freedom Park was particularly grim as the stretch connecting Majestic to Maurya Circle was heavily inundated, making it difficult for smaller vehicles to move safely.

In Sanjaynagar, severe waterlogging was reported on the highway stretch from Tin Factory and KR Puram towards Hebbal and the Kempegowda International Airport.

The railway underpass near the back gate of Phoenix Mall of Asia, Byatarayanapura, was completely flooded, forcing police to temporarily restrict vehicular movement and divert traffic.

In the Central Business District (CBD), waterlogging was reported on Lavelle Road and at Sumanahalli Junction. Kodava Samaj Road in Vasanth Nagar also remained flooded, disrupting traffic movement.

Motorists navigate a waterlogged Cunningham Road after heavy rain in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTOS/BK JANARDHAN

Slow-moving traffic across key corridors

Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) reported slow-moving traffic near the Manyata Tech Park entrance towards the Ring Road due to heavy waterlogging. Traffic snarls were also reported at Nagawara Junction after a BMTC bus got stuck in the mud. Congestion was also reported from Dommasandra towards Muthanalluru Cross and near Kodathi Gate. Bottlenecks were reported at Cauvery Junction towards Palace Cross, the Udaya TV underpass towards Jayamahal Road and from GRT Junction towards Hosakote.

Outer areas, including Kalyan Nagar towards Uttam Sagar Junction, Hennur Cross towards Vaddarapalya and the road from Crystal Palace to Nandagokula, were also heavily flooded.

People rush towards the Vidhana Soudha metro station to take shelter from the rain. DH PHOTOS/PRASHANTH HG

TREE FALL INCIDENTS WORSEN GRIDLOCK

- A tree fell near Kodigehalli towards Phoenix Mall of Asia, worsening traffic congestion on the airport highway. Tree branches also fell in Indiranagar, Ulsoor and nearby areas.
- Traffic came to a standstill near the Cantonment railway station after a tree collapsed across the road, blocking key lanes near Cantonment Circle and causing a massive pileup during peak return hours.

Girls walk through the heavy rain at Ambedkar Veedhi.

> People are living in makeshift homes already, and the rains cause havoc. This time, there was massive flooding. The situation will only get worse once the monsoon fully arrives.
> **ISSAC AMRUTHA RAJ,** State president of Slum Janara Sangatane-Karnataka

Commuters struggle to get rides home

Anusha R, an employee at an IT company in Whitefield, said: "I travel by metro but to get to the metro I usually book an auto. It had been raining from around 5.30 pm and the prices shot up." Many commuters struggled to find autos and cabs as fares surged during the rain. "I had to pay Rs 1,000 to get home from MG Road to Bannerghatta Road by cab. This is at least Rs 500 more than what I usually pay. Rides get very expensive whenever it rains in Bengaluru," said IT professional Akanksha Rao. Autos operating near the metro and railway stations were charging anywhere between Rs 500 and Rs 1,500.

Flights impacted

Rain disrupted flight operations at KIA, prompting airlines to issue travel advisories to passengers.

In a statement, IndiGo said adverse weather conditions had affected flight schedules and urged passengers to check their flight status on the airline's website and app. The airline added that its teams were assisting passengers affected by delays and disruptions. Meanwhile, Air India Express flight IX2718 from Pune to Bengaluru was diverted to Chennai before later proceeding to Bengaluru.

A biker makes his way through the heavy rain at Ambedkar Veedhi.

Man detained for Air Force campus breach

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 42-year-old man from Madhya Pradesh was detained by Sadashivanagar police after he allegedly trespassed into the Air Force Headquarters Training Command campus on Ballari Road.

The man, Bhag Chand Dhurve, is a native of Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh and works as a daily wager in a borewell drilling agency.

Warrant Officer Vinai Kumar Mishra of the Air Force and security personnel noticed an unidentified man inside the restricted HQTC campus around 3.46 pm on May 16.

The suspect was intercepted and questioned. He failed to produce any valid identity documents. A search of his pockets yielded Rs 732 in cash and a BMTC bus ticket from the Kempegowda Bus Station to Shivananda Circle.

Sadashivanagar police booked Dhurve for trespassing into a prohibited defence area after entering the premises in an inebriated state.

West Asia conflict slows construction projects in city

Builders seek up to six-month extension from K-RERA

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Homebuyers awaiting apartments or housing complexes may have to wait longer as the conflict in West Asia has disrupted the supply chain of construction materials.

Developers expect delays of at least three to six months in completing large projects.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (Credai), Karnataka, will soon write to the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), seeking an extension of three to six months for completing all registered projects under the 'force majeure' clause.

"Though the situation is getting better, the supply chain disruptions have interrupted operations and caused significant delays. This has to be considered a special situation. Hence, we have sought some relief from RERA," said Sriram K from Credai.

Due to the conflict, gas supply was hit, resulting in shortage of several materials crucial to the construction industry. From steel and tiles to sanitaryware, shortages were reported across sectors.

Many developers either slowed or halted construction activities due to material shortage and rising prices.

"Some materials are available if we pay a higher price. However, a few other materials are difficult to procure even at higher prices. Hence, over the last month, we slowed construction and even halted activities at a few sites," said city-based architect Yash G.

Developers said construction activity was also affected by a labour shortage over the past month, as many migrant workers returned to their native places in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu during the elections.

Developers said delays in project completion could also push up the cost of new projects and construction.

"The price of all construction materials, including cement and steel, has increased significantly and this will have to be factored in. Fuel price hikes have added to the problem. All of these together will reflect in construction costs," said contractor Sohan K.

Both project delays and rising prices are expected to affect homebuyers, many of whom are already repaying housing loans.

Workers at a construction site on Hosur Road. DH FILE PHOTO

Impact on sector

- Large housing projects may be delayed by 3–6 months.
- Credai Karnataka to seek deadline extensions from K-RERA under the 'force majeure' clause.
- Supply shortages have hit steel, tiles, sanitaryware and other construction materials. Rising material and fuel costs are pushing up construction expenses.
- Some developers have slowed or halted work due to shortages.
- Labour shortages have worsened delays.
- Homebuyers could face both project delays and higher costs.

Lease scam: Firm's rent default leaves 200 tenants stranded

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indiranagar police have registered a case against a private firm for allegedly cheating more than 200 people of crores of rupees by promising to pay monthly house rent on behalf of tenants after collecting huge lease deposits.

A senior police officer said complainant Clifford Ryan and others filed a case against Stephen Jones, managing director of Jones Property Management.

They came into contact with the firm in June 2025.

In his complaint, Ryan alleged that the company assured him that if he paid the lease amount to the firm, it would handle the monthly rent payments to the house owner.

Trusting the firm, Ryan transferred around Rs 21 lakh through multiple online transactions to the company's bank account. The agreement was signed on August 12, 2025, after which Ryan moved into the house.

Police said the company had also entered into an agreement with the actual house owner, Raju Benedict, assuring him that rent would be paid regularly.

However, on May 1, 2026, the house owner contacted Ryan stating that rent had not been paid for the previous six months and asked him to vacate the premises immediately.

CID probe likely

An officer from the Indiranagar police station said Stephen Jones, managing director of Jones Property Management, had earlier been booked by the Chandra Layout police in 2021 in a cheating case involving a techie who was allegedly duped of lakhs of rupees in the name of investment.

Since the company is allegedly involved in a fraud exceeding Rs 200 crore with multiple victims, the case is likely to be transferred to the CID for further investigation, police said.

Shocked by the development, Ryan approached the company seeking a refund of the lease amount, but did not receive any response.

When he visited the office, he discovered that several others had been cheated in a similar manner.

Fintech firms held to account as investor FD funds stay blocked

BENGALURU, DHNS: An FIR has been registered against fintech company MobiKwik Xtra Ltd and NGFC Lendbox Pvt Ltd for allegedly blocking investor funds and withholding repayments under the 'MobiKwik Xtra' investment scheme.

Over 630 investors across India put in more than Rs 6 crore in the scheme, and nearly 30% of invested amounts remain blocked in several cases.

In Bengaluru, at least six investors from Hebbal, JP Nagar and Varthur have approached police with complaints.

Mayank Dey, 25, a mechanical engineer and a resident of Varthur, alleged in his complaint that the firms marketed the scheme as an investment product offering "better returns than fixed deposits" with the assurance of "anytime withdrawal".

He invested Rs 3 lakh in July 2024 after seeing promotions on social media and fintech influencer platforms.

A senior police officer said the complainant claimed that money collected through MobiKwik Xtra was allegedly routed to Lendbox and further lent to borrowers through a peer-to-peer (P2P) lending model.

After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued regulatory changes relating to P2P lending platforms in August 2024, the firms froze withdrawals overnight and later began issuing reduced repayments.

While the platform initially provided regular monthly repayments, the amounts sharply declined from early 2025.

The firms informed investors that borrowers had defaulted. Investors, though, alleged that borrower mapping reports and lender verification records showed discrepancies in the repayment data.

Varthur police have registered a case and are gathering evidence, an officer said.

30,000 tankers, yet Sanchari Cauvery faces teething issues

ARNABI MALLICK
BENGALURU, DHNS

A year since its launch, the Sanchari Cauvery initiative by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has dispatched over 30,000 tanker orders.

The initiative, which provides Cauvery water on tankers, has helped many residents by putting a brake on the water tanker mafia in the city.

However, some teething problems continue to trouble citizens.

Several customers who spoke to *DH* complained about delays in delivery, a problem especially acute for those who have booked bulk orders.

"Sometimes the delivery comes after two days or more. During such instances, we are forced to get water through private tankers. This defeats the purpose of the initiative," said Vishwa Venkata Reddy, a Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) member from Panathur.

Delays in Sanchari Cauvery deliveries force residents to rely on private tankers.

Lack of an option to apply for a refund or cancel an order when it is not delivered is another concern.

"The last time I ordered water, I got it after three months of constantly trying to approach an official to address my concern. I had already paid the amount and there was no option to request a refund," said Pratap MG, a resident of Chikkagubbi. He added that he was told many times that water could not be delivered to his address because it is beyond four kilometres from the source of supply.

Senior BWSSB officials said they are working on improving the software. "We have made a lot of changes over the last year to improve the consumer experience. We are already working on including cancellation and refund features," an official said. The BWSSB also plans to add features such as a reminder message to place an order based on a specific consumer's purchase pattern.

Total orders receivedor Sanchari Cauvery

May 2025	723
June	2,582
July	2,296
August	2,320
September	2,366
October	2,014
November	2,235
December:	2,356
January 2026	2,379
February	2,863
March	3,766
April	4,048
May (till 8th)	557

Student stabbed in staged road rage robbery

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ramamurthy Nagar police have arrested five people, including two minors, for allegedly stabbing a 21-year-old BBA student and robbing his motorcycle after staging a road rage incident in east Bengaluru.

The accused had also committed another robbery in Banaswadi minutes before the attack, police said.

Police said the victim, Dheeraj, a resident of Banjara Layout in Ramamurthy Nagar, sustained stab injuries to his back and thigh in the attack.

The gang followed him for some distance before picking a quarrel, accusing him of overtaking their motorcycle. During the argument, one of the accused attacked Dheeraj with a knife while the others snatched his bike and fled.

Locals rushed Dheeraj to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment and is said to be out of danger.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Closing ceremony: Cultural, sports, NSS, Scouts and Guides activities; HC Boralingaiah, Girish HN to attend; BES College, Jayanagar; 10 am.

Inauguration: Karnataka's first MR-LINAC for Next Generation Cancer Care; HCG Cancer Hospital, Hebbal; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Drama festival, karaoke singing: Inauguration by Dodmane Venkatesh; Organised by Drishyaranga Kala Sangha; Nayana Sabhagana, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 6 pm.

'Ranga Vaividhya' Festival of Different Plays: 'Jnataparva' play performance; Team: Dakshataranga; Organised by Karnataka Nataka Academy; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 6.30 pm.

'Nakshatra Yatrikaru' Play Performance: Directed by Prasanna GV; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7.15 pm.

RELIGIOUS

'Adhikamasa Mahatme' Religious Discourse: Kambaluru Srivatsacharya; Raghavendra Swamy Math, Thyagarajanagar; 6 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Rain or thundershowers with strong gusty winds

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.6°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	1.4 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	97%
Sunset (May 19)	6:38 pm
Sunrise (May 20)	5:54 am
Moonrise	7:01 am
Moonset	8:313 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SIR: Chief electoral officer meets reps of political parties

BENGALURU, DHNS: State Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar held a meeting with representatives from recognised political parties on Monday ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list that begins on June 20.

The meeting was attended by Legislative Council member Ramesh Babu (Congress), S Dattatreya (BJP), H N Devaraj (JD-S), Darshan Jain (Aam Aadmi Party), Arun Prasad (Bahujan Samaj Party), M P Munivenkatappa (CPI-M), and S Saravanan from the National People's Party, among others.

The political parties reportedly urged the CEO to ensure that no eligible voter is left out in the enumeration process, which hopes to cover approximately 5.55 crore registered voters in the state.

Earlier, the CEO had urged all recognised political parties to appoint booth-level agents (BLAs) to work in tandem with the 59,050 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) appointed by the Election Commission for the door-to-door exercise.

"At present, only 25,284 BLAs have been appointed by the parties and appointing BLAs to every polling station can ensure active participation and transparency in the revision process," Anbukumar had said.

Bus strike: KSRTC invokes 'no work, no pay' for absentees

Workers demand 25% salary hike, payment of arrears

Labour Department in-charge secretary Dinesh Kumar, officials of the Transport department and representatives of transport transport corporation workers' unions take part in a meeting, in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ahead of the planned strike of the state transport corporation employees on May 20, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Managing Director Akram Pasha has urged the employees not to join the protests, warning of disciplinary action of 'no work, no pay' against absentees.

Meanwhile, the state transport corporation unions have urged employees not to report to work on Wednesday, expressing their solidarity to a protest that demands a 25% salary hike and full settlement of pending wage arrears.

The unions have issued a strict deadline to the state government demanding a resolution by the afternoon of May 19, failing which, services in all four state-run transport corporations - KSRTC, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) will be withdrawn.

In response to this, a notice was issued by the KSRTC to senior and divisional controlling officers. It said the proposed strike called by the Joint Action Committee of labour organisations was impermissible under the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act (KESMA), 2013, which governs the essential public utility services.

It noted that all four corporations have been declared public utility services and noted that the dispute related to the strike notice is currently under conciliation before the State Labour Commissioner. Citing provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, it said employees of a public utility service cannot go on strike while conciliation proceedings are pending.

Officials across the corporations have been directed to take precautionary measures to ensure that scheduled services are not disrupted during the strike.

As per the circular, no leave will be sanctioned from May 20 onwards, except in "unavoidable circumstances". Employees absent during the strike period will face action under the 'no work, no pay' principle, and a list of absentees will be prepared for salary deductions.

Reconciliation talks fail

The reconciliation meeting between the transport workers' unions and the management, called by the Labour Commissioner on Monday, has failed. The Labour Commissioner has set May 25 for the next round of talks. However, the unions are firm on starting a bus strike from May 20 if their demands are not met.

The union leaders have demanded a meeting with the chief minister or bilateral talks with the transport minister. They have given the government deadline till Tuesday midnight to resolve the issue through talks. If no solution is reached by then, the bus strike will begin on May 20.

Dubare tragedy: Victim's husband laments lack of emergency facilities

Deceased woman's cornea donated to teaching hospital

MADIKERI, DHNS

There was no emergency medical vehicle or basic first-aid facility at the Dubare elephant camp, alleged Joel, the husband of Joysi who lost her life during the clash of two tamed elephants on Monday.

"There was no emergency medical vehicle at the spot. Even though staff were present, they could not rescue her. There was not even a basic first-aid facility," he told media persons.

The family had come from Pallavaram in Chennai to Mysuru and then to Dubare.

"We had purchased tickets worth Rs 300 each to watch the elephant bathing and were taking photographs near the bathing area. At that moment, another elephant suddenly came and attacked the elephant beside us. The elephant fell on me and my wife. I was holding our baby in my hands. I somehow managed to escape, but my wife could not come out. I tried to pull her out in vain," he lamented, adding that everyone around them ran away and there was no one for immediate help.

The victim's cornea was donated to the teaching hospital of Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences in Madikeri.

Camp closed today

Deputy Conservator of Forests Abhishek said the elephant camp will be closed for visitors on Tuesday as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, reports have emerged that elephant Kanjan, which attacked elephant Marthanda, has attacked and injured several other elephants in the past as well. The 27-year-old pachyderm has been participating in the Mysuru Dasara since 2023.

During the 2024 Dasara celebrations, Kanjan had attacked elephant Dhananjaya on the Mysuru Palace premises and chased the latter away with its tusks. Kanjan later rammed through the palace gate and ran onto the road, creating panic before being brought under control by mahouts.

Sources said that even after returning to the Dubare camp, Kanjan had attacked Dhananjaya again.

Nature Conservation Foundation Scientist M Anand Kumar, who has conducted extensive studies on human-elephant conflict and the behaviour of Asian elephants in human-dominated landscapes in South India, said, "It is unfortunate that the incident at Dubare resulted in a loss of a person's life, and it could have been avoided if the authorities had maintained a safe distance between elephants and people."

"Though elephants have been domesticated, they still retain their natural instincts and feel uncomfortable and insecure in the presence of people close to them. They get agitated in the presence of more humans. We should respect them and avoid close proximity as they may turn aggressive due to uncomfortable intimidation," he said.

He urged the authorities to ensure that people respect the elephants' space and observe and enjoy them from a safe distance. "Allowing people to bathe the elephants and touch them is risky. It may lead to unpleasant and unwarranted consequences," added Anand.

A file photo of elephants being bathed at Dubare camp in Kodagu district.

SOP for safety of tourists

Minister of Forests, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre directed officials to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for tourist safety in all elephant livestock and rehabilitation camps in the state. He said tourists should be allowed to watch elephants bathe from a distance of 100 feet, reports DHNS from Bidar.

He also directed forest officials not to allow tourists to click selfies, photos, and feeding elephants any food such as bananas, jaggery or sugarcane from the hands of tourists.

Hundreds of displaced families from Kogilu and civil society groups gathered in protest at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday.

Kogilu: Displaced families put off strike to next week

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hundreds of displaced families from Kogilu and activists of various civil society groups staged a protest at Freedom Park on Monday, more than five months after a demolition drive left over 200 families homeless in Yelahanka's Kogilu Layout.

The protesters raised slogans of "Give us a home, or send us to jail", accusing the state government of not fulfilling its rehabilitation promises.

The displaced families, along with a coalition of labour, minority, and women's rights organisations, had earlier called for an indefinite strike. The demonstrators have now decided to temporarily halt it after speaking to the deputy commissioner (DC).

"The DC has assured us that within 24 hours, a date will be set for a meeting on the discussion of housing for displaced Kogilu residents. We have given them a week. If there is no positive movement from the government, we'll be going on an indefinite strike from May 26," said Nandhini, a member of the Kogilu Layout Victims' Struggle Committee.

The residents said they were forced to live under tarpaulins and have pulled their children out of school for over 180 days now as the government razed their houses.

The government had initially promised relocation and tasked the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation with conducting surveys. However, the protestors claimed no concrete relief has been provided.

They also alleged that the government is creating systematic barriers.

The displaced residents are reportedly being asked to produce an extensive list of paperwork, including income certificates, voter IDs, ration cards, and bank details.

"The residents come from destitute communities. Many are illiterate. What sense does it make to ask these people for income and caste certificates? The government is making it harder by the day for these displayed families to get any help. They have been labelled Bangladeshis, but no official body has been able to prove that statement," said Issac Amrutha Raj, state president, Slum Janara Sanghatane-Karnataka.

Forum warns govt of intense protest against Bidadi township project

BENGALURU, DHNS

Taking a dig at the state government's push for urban expansion at the cost of ecological stability, the Samyukta Horata Karnataka, a unified coalition of agrarian, Dalit, and labour organisations on Monday demanded the immediate withdrawal of Cabinet approval for the Bidadi Township project.

Terming the proposed mega township a disaster that would ravage thousands of acres of perennially irrigated land, the coalition warned the Siddaramaiah-led Congress administration to scrap the land acquisition process or face a massive political backlash.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here, prominent leaders including Badagalapura Nagendra, Siddanagouda Patil, Noor Sridhar, T Yashavantha, P P Appanna, and Prakash, along with aggrieved farmers, drew parallels with historical land struggles. They noted that the ongoing agitation by local farmers has crossed 428 days of an indefinite strike, yet the government chose to bypass democratic consultations to grant Cabinet clearance.

Samyukta Horata Karnataka, a unified coalition of agrarian, dalit and labour organisations holds a press meet in Bengaluru on Monday.

Calls Cabinet nod naked violation of democratic rights & dictatorial act

"This is not barren wasteland; it is a lush green, multi-cropped belt producing coconut, arecanut, banana, mango, ragi, and jowar, alongside thriving dairy farming and sericulture operations," the leaders stated. Adjacent to the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) boundary, this region serves as a crucial, daily food granary supplying milk, fruits, and vegetables directly to Bengaluru city.

The farmers' body directly accused Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar of using administrative machinery to bulldoze public opposition to benefit the real estate mafia, calling the Cabinet approval a naked violation of democratic rights and a dictatorial act.

The coalition strongly disputed the government's claim that satellite townships are necessary to decongest the state capital. Instead, they argued that unplanned urban sprawling has already ruined Bengaluru's peripheral ecosystem.

Retail fuel outlets told not to fill more than 200 litres per vehicle

BENGALURU, DHNS: To avert a fuel crisis in the state, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has written to all the Deputy Commissioners asking them to ensure that retail fuel outlets cap the amount of fuel poured into a single vehicle at 200 litres in accordance with the Petroleum Rules, 2002.

In a letter, the Commissioner, Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, said that the global situation necessitated such measures.

"Retail outlets are not licensed to provide bulk supply. Bulk consumers can get fuel only from direct sales depot operating under the consumer pumps," the letter said.

Lorry drivers, however, argued that such a move would only add to their problems given that the Centre recently increased the price of petrol and diesel by Rs 3 each.

"Most of us fill fuel at retail outlets and such limits will impact the operations. If our operations are impacted, it will affect the entire market. The order is yet to be fully implemented on the ground. However, we are meeting with the association members soon and we will decide how to address this," said G R Shanmugappa of the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association.

The order also noted that the petrol bunks should not fill fuel in cans or bottles.

Fuel outlets should also be responsible and not create an artificial shortage, the department has warned. "If any cases of unauthorized hoarding of fuel and creating temporary shortage are found, strict action will be taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955," the order noted.

VTU students to get Remote Pilot Certificate soon

BENGALURU, DHNS: The students of Visvesvaraya Technological University can soon get a Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC), which is mandatory to operate or fly drones. The university, in collaboration with drone firm NeoSky, will provide a one-week training for students, and later, trained students will receive the licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

On Monday, the authorities of DGCA and representatives of NeoSky educated students about the importance of a drone licence.

Sharath Chandra, CEO of NeoSky, said, We will provide the training, and students will receive a licence that allows them to use drones for commercial purposes."

School Edu Dept mandates singing of Naadageethe at all schools

It is to be rendered during the morning assembly

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of School Education and Literacy has mandated the rendition of the state anthem or 'Naadageethe' penned by Rashtrakavi Kuvempu during the morning assembly at all schools across the state. The order is binding on government, government-aided and unaided schools.

The department has warned of action being initiated against the principal and physical education teacher if the order is not complied with.

The singing of the state anthem, the department believes, will spotlight Karnataka's rich heritage and its unique linguistic identity. "The state anthem – 'Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate' – must be compulsorily sung during the morning assembly at all government, aided and unaided primary and secondary schools," read the circular.

The rendition of the state anthem will also instil a sense of pride about Karnataka among the students, the department added.

"There is a prevailing practice at some private schools where the school anthem is sung. Let them continue to do so, but they must ensure that the 'Naadageethe' is rendered before that," a School Education Department official told *DH*.

Music teachers have been told to train students to render the Naadageethe so that they make no mistakes with the pronunciation and sing it in the right rhythm.

The Naadageethe must also be sung on Independence Day, Republic Day, Karnataka Rajyotsava, schools' annual day functions, and during the celebration of national and state festivals.

Meaning and importance of Naadageethe

The circular called on Kannada language teachers to explain the meaning and importance of the anthem to students, thereby enabling them to render the song with a sense of motivation.

Sense of unity

The state anthem is to be rendered in an atmosphere that nurtures discipline, respect and instils a sense of unity among the students, the circular said.

Deve Gowda firm about JD(S)-BJP alliance

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former prime minister and JD(S) national president H D Deve Gowda on Monday ascertained that his party's alliance with the BJP will continue even for the 2028 Legislative Assembly election in the state.

The JD(S) patriarch said, "My party is a minor partner in NDA. My relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah is very good. If any problem arises in the alliance, I am confident of resolving it by sitting with them. There is no anxiety about the alliance."

He was speaking to reporters during the celebration of his 94th birthday.

Gowda said, " I will not sit at home saying that I have completed 93 years. I will fight for the people's cause for as many more days as possible. I will move around in the wheelchair."

Commenting about Congress's victory in Kerala, he said, "In South India, Congress is restricted to Kerala, Telangana and Karnataka. Let us see in the coming days what will happen."

Belagavi investment scam accused remanded in 10-day CID custody

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Second Additional District and Sessions Court on Monday sent Shivanand Neelannavar of Shivam Associates (Acumen), who has been arrested for allegedly cheating over 35,000 investors by assuring them huge returns on their investments, to a 10-day CID custody.

As the case appeared to be involving fraud in over above Rs 50 crore, the city police transferred the case to the CID for investigation. CID DIGP (Economics Offences Wing) Dr Bheemashankar Guled and team arrived in the city on Sunday and interrogated Neelannavar. He was produced in the court, and the prosecution demanded his custody for investigations. The court ordered a 10-day CID custody.

The Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies filed a complaint with the Mal Maruthi police. Neelannavar was arrested on Friday evening.

Length of incarceration by itself doesn't entitle a convict to parole: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Length of incarceration, by itself, does not entitle a convict to parole when weighed against antecedents and nature of offences, the high court of Karnataka has observed in a recent judgement. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum while dismissing the petition filed by a prisoner, who is convicted in six cases of economic offences.

The petitioner Ambarish S Kapadia, a resident of Mumbai, sought a direction to the authorities at Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru, to grant parole for a period of two months. The petitioner claimed that he has undergone incarceration for about 14 years and in 2020, the high court had directed the prison authorities to reconsider his application seeking parole.

It was submitted that the 2020 order could not be fructified as he was transferred to Ahmedabad Central Prison in Gujarat in a case investigated by the CBI. He filed a fresh application seeking parole in September 2025 and in the meantime shifted back to Central Prison, Bengaluru in October.

P Prasanna Kumar, special public prosecutor for the CBI, contended that the 2020 direction was not to grant parole but only to reconsider his application. While at that point in time it could not be considered owing to his transfer to another state prison, presently he is disentitled to seek parole in view of Rule 192(2)(1)(i) of the Karnataka Prison Rules, with conviction in six cases, the SPP stated.

Justice Magadum noted that the 2020 order did not confer any vested or enforceable right to parole and the direction for reconsideration was in the context of procedural infirmity in the earlier rejection.

"The petitioner stands convicted in six criminal cases, which by itself indicates a pattern of repeated criminality. The offences, as borne out from records, involve serious allegations of economic offences such as cheating, forgery and misappropriation, which affect public confidence. One of the cases is under the jurisdiction of the CBI, indicating the gravity and complexity of the offences. The petitioner's antecedents do not inspire confidence so as to extend the benefit of temporary release," Justice Magadum said.

The court further said, "The contention that the petitioner has undergone 14 years of imprisonment, though a relevant factor, cannot be viewed in isolation. Length of incarceration, by itself, does not entitle a convict to parole when weighed against antecedents and nature of offences."

JPC mulls holding re-election for reminder term to keep 'ONOE' cycle intact

BENGALURU, DHNS: To maintain synchronicity in case of a fractured mandate or no-confidence motion, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE) is considering holding re-elections only for the remainder of the term, said JPC chairman P P Chaudhary, during a consultation meeting with media representatives here in Bengaluru on Monday.

"In 1993, a constitutional amendment ensured that if a no-confidence motion is moved in local self-governments, a new chairman and committee take over for the remainder of the term. The theory of remainder term already exists at the grassroots and could be replicated in the Assembly and Parliament too," said Chaudhary.

"The high-level committee recommends conducting elections to local self governments within 100 days of Parliament and Assembly elections to strengthen decentralisation by giving ample time for governance," he added.

On fears of national narratives overshadowing local issues, Chaudhary said voters won't be swayed by national narrative. "We cannot underestimate voters, who are now very vigilant and have voted for different parties in the state and Parliament elections. The exit polls too go wrong because a voter does not reveal his mind, but uses his discretion while voting," he added.

On the logistical challenge of security deployment and EVMs, the chairman said the JPC would consult MHA and ECI on deploying security forces on a massive scale. "BEL has committed to provide requisite number of EVMs in two years," he said.

'Staggered polls hit economy'

Citing the high level committee (Ramnath Kovind committee) report, JPC chairman P P Chaudhary said staggered elections cause economic losses of Rs 7 lakh crore due to loss of production. "Five crore migrants move across the country for elections. It affects production and industries are unable to pay taxes and might move towards insolvency as a worker who goes for elections stays home for a longer duration.

Also governance is impacted as officers are constantly in election mode. IAS officers are deployed as poll observers in different poll-bound states. This affects policy making and programme implementation in his home state. Investors are also hesitant to invest in states that are in election mode," he said, adding simultaneous polls also reduced "freebie culture".

On the academic disruptions owing to elections, Chaudhary said students suffer due to staggered elections as teachers are engaged in census and election duty, which affect academic activity. The committee is in consultation with the ECI, education department, MHA and student unions to evolve an election calendar based on the academic calendar, agriculture season and geographical situation of states.

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St. Patrick's Church on **Wednesday**
May 20th 2026 at 11:00 AM
Followed by Burial at
St. Patrick's Cemetery, Hosur Road
Deeply Mourned by :
Allen / Selma, Nisha / Chris and Grandchildren
Nina, Deborah and Jonathan
May his soul rest in peace

Absence of elected body hits functioning of gram panchayats

Taluk-level officials appointed as administrators

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

The governance in gram panchayats (GPs) across the state has been affected severely after the five-year tenure of the elected members ended in February.

The outgoing members of these local governing bodies say that the administrators appointed by the deputy commissioners to manage day-to-day GP affairs are inaccessible to the people. Consequently, villagers face various problems accessing basic amenities including drinking water supply during summer.

The government has appointed various taluk-level officials as administrators for over 5,900 GPs until the next elections - which are expected by year-end. The elections are delayed due to the delimitation and reservation processes. Every official has been entrusted with the affairs of 3-4 GPs, in addition to their administrative overload due to staff shortage. Therefore, the villagers say that many people are unaware of these administrators' names and contact numbers.

Issues related to delimitation and reservation have delayed the election to rural local bodies. DH FILE PHOTO

Legal provision

Kadashettihalli Satish, president of the Karnataka State Gram Panchayat Members' Federation and an outgoing member of Kadaba GP in Gubbi taluk of Tumakuru district, argued that administrators must perform the all duties of an elected body in the GP alongside their routine ones. He pointed out that the government appointed administrators under Section 8 of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act despite a provision to form an alternative committee to oversee development works by re-nominating outgoing GP members until the next polls.

"The Maharashtra government appointed outgoing GP sarpanchs (presidents) as administrators whose terms expired between December 2025 and early 2026. However, the Karnataka government has appointed officials including tahsildars and BEOs as administrators who hesitate to sign small bills without reviewing the progress of works on the ground. It is difficult for them to handle the full responsibility of an elected GP body when government departments are reeling under manpower shortages, with 2.7 lakh posts falling vacant," he explained.

Lack of funds

The former members contended that GPs lack funds as the centre has not allotted the 15th Finance Commission grants. This is due to the Rural Development and Panchayat Department's failure to allocate earlier funds according to guidelines.

"The governance in gram panchayats has totally collapsed due to a lack of funds and the administrators' failure to visit villages. Bills totalling to crores of rupees are pending in GPs under various schemes including the MGNREGA. Therefore, the government should have constituted a committee by re-nominating outgoing GP members until the election is completed. Alternatively, elections should be conducted for all GPs except those where there are objections about delimitation and reservation," said Shreedhar Patil, the outgoing president of Kumsi Gram Panchayat in Kalaburagi taluk.

Kalaburagi South Block Education Officer Vijay Kumar Jamkhandi claimed that he finds it little difficult to perform his duty as he is appointed as administrator for four gram panchayats in Kalaburagi district.

"I have to monitor development works in about 15 villages alongside the administrative work of the education department. The burden will increase once school admissions start, as I will have to handle many tasks, including distributing textbooks and uniforms, in addition to the GP administrator's duty," he said.

Meanwhile, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge maintained that appointing officials as administrators is a temporary arrangement.

"The idea to appoint officials as GP administrators is not a new one and it has happened on previous occasions. We have not received any complaints about more work burden from them. We have already written to deputy commissioners and ZP CEOs to start election procedures. We can form committees by re-nominating outgoing GP members to look after administration only in case of inadvertent delay in elections", Priyank Kharge said.

Pre-monsoon rains bring joy & misery in parts of state

Trees uprooted, power supply affected in many areas

BENGALURU, DHNS

Pre-monsoon showers continued to lash parts of north and south interior Karnataka providing much-needed respite from searing heat. On the flip side, thundershowers, accompanied by thunder, lightning and gusty winds have caused extensive damage to houses, crops and power lines.

Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities continued to experience heavy showers for the second day on trot on Monday. Skies opened up at 4.30 pm and it poured for next one-and-a-half hours, along with heightened thunder and lightning activity and gusty winds. The downpour caused flooding in low-lying areas. Tree falls were reported across the Hubballi city. Uprooting of electricity poles and snapping of power lines plunged many residential areas into darkness. More than 20 cars and bikes were damaged.

A huge tree comes down on a car following heavy rain and gusty winds, in Hubballi on Monday evening.
DH PHOTO/GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Rainwater flows on a road in Palimedu village of Hanur taluk in Chamarajangar district following heavy rains.

Gadag town and parts of district also saw heavy showers for the second consecutive day on Monday. Power supply has been hit hard in several villages in the taluk, including Mulgund. Uprooting of electricity poles in the Sunday evening storm have plunged the villages into darkness. The power outage has also hit drinking water supply in several villages.

Fishing boats have been anchored at Baithkol port near Karwar due to rough sea. The coastal towns of Uttara Kannada district continued to witness heavy showers with high-intensity winds.

Chikkaballapur town and surrounding areas witnessed a good spell of rain for over one hour on Monday evening. The showers brought cheers to the farmers, which helped them to prepare farmland for the kharif season.

Chamarajangar and Hanur received heavy rains for a while on Monday noon. The showers brought respite from the sweltering heat. Farming activities are expected to gain momentum with this rain. Several waterbodies were filled following heavy rain in Hanur.

Rumours of actor Darshan's suicide attempt trigger tension

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tension gripped the premises of the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on Monday after rumours spread that jailed actor Darshan had attempted suicide inside the prison.

Darshan

However, senior prison officials rushed to verify the facts and confirmed that they were completely baseless.

Speaking to *DH*, a senior jail staff member said rumours have been circulating since Sunday night, prompting personnel from Parappana Agrahara police station to contact the prison authorities through the landline phone to verify the claims.

Senior prison officials clarified that no such incident had taken place and termed the claims mere rumours.

DGP (Prisons) Alok Kumar also issued a clarification to the media, "The rumours regarding a suicide attempt by cine star Darshan are completely baseless and far from the truth. No one should come near the Parappana Agrahara Central Jail believing such rumours. He has been doing fine."

Asked if there was any crowding around the prisons, the officials told *DH*, "The crowd of fans who are gathered didn't go out of control. Darshan's wife, too, was informed to dispel the rumours."

Meanwhile, Darshan's wife Vijayalakshmi has sought permission from the jail authorities to meet him at the premises as their wedding anniversary falls on May 19.

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Agriculture course practical test: Re-examination ordered at Hiriyur centre

BENGALURU, DHNS

After 74 students at the Hiriyur centre in Chitradurga district secured 200 out of 200 marks in the practical exam of the entrance test to BSc (Agriculture) course, the state government has decided to conduct a re-examination for students at the centre.

Allegations of irregularities surfaced following the exemplary performance of 74 students, and an inquiry was conducted by the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural Sciences, Shivamogga and a report submitted.

It has been argued that the region-specific specimens given to the students were simple, owing to which as many students secured 200 out of 200 marks, prompting the government to order a re-examination.

Karnataka Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy confirmed that the government had decided to have a re-examination for students who appeared for the exam at the Hiriyur centre.

The practical exam is conducted to assess the knowledge, and ascertain whether candidates applying for the course under the 'agriculturist' quota are eligible for the same. The practical exam was conducted at 17 centres across the state.

A student who appeared for the practical exam at another centre expressed incredulity over the fact that 74 students at Hiryur secured full marks in the test. "How can it be possible for 74 students to secure full marks," the student asked.

A parent equated the irregularities at the Hiriyur centre to the NEET question paper leak scam. "The government must cancel the exam and order a probe. We suspect a bigger racket in the conduct of the practical examinations," said the parent.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka too pitched for a re-examination. Pointing out that irregularities had been alleged in the KPSC examinations as well, Ashoka added, "Several parents and students have levelled allegations of irregularities in the conduct of the practical test in Chitradurga. Is this the way to provide justice to students from poor agricultural families?"

However, officials at the Karnataka Examinations' Authority (KEA) said that the practical exams were conducted by the respective agricultural universities.

"The examination in Chitradurga was conducted by the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural Sciences, Shivamogga. It is the varsity's responsibility to conduct the practical exam, and submit the rank list to the KEA," said a senior KEA official.

Meanwhile, authorities of the university said that they had submitted the report of the fact-finding panel to the government. The report makes no mention of foul play. "The region-based specimens used for the exam were simple, which may have resulted in the students securing full marks. The committee has examined all the CCTV camera footage," said Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University registrar Shamarao Jagirdar, who was also part of the fact-finding panel.

Karnataka DG&IGP issues SOP for investigation into custodial violence, death cases

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka Director General and Inspector General (DG&IGP) of Police M A Saleem has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure uniform and impartial investigation into cases of custodial violence and custodial deaths across the state.

Saleem noted in the order that local investigating officers were often failing to follow a uniform investigation process in such sensitive cases. The order observed lapses, including delayed registration of FIRs, delayed mahazars and failure to secure crucial physical and digital evidence.

The SOP stated that by the time the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) takes over such investigations, technical lapses and significant evidence would reach irreversible and deteriorated state, hampering the probe and affecting the judicial process.

Under the new guidelines, police stations have been directed to immediately register FIRs in all allegations of custodial violence or custodial death under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, either based on a complaint or suo motu.

The station house officer has also been instructed to immediately send an express report along with the FIR copy to senior officers and the police headquarters.

The SOP mandates that until the CID formally takes over the investigation, the head of the police unit must ensure an impartial inquiry through an officer of and above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.

In custodial violence cases, the local investigating officer has been directed to immediately conduct spot mahazars, seize physical and circumstantial evidence through audio-video recording, and secure CCTV footage of the police station concerned.

Victim statements must be recorded through audio-video means and, where required, before a judicial officer under Section 183 of the BNSS. Medical examination reports of the victim must also be collected without delay.

After the CID takes over, the agency has been directed to scrutinise earlier investigation records, revisit the crime scene, examine witnesses, collect digital evidence such as CCTV footage, DVRs, CDRs, and seize electronic devices if necessary.

The CID officer has also been instructed to seek prosecution sanction under Section 218 of the BNSS and Section 170 of the Karnataka Police Act before filing a chargesheet against police personnel.

For custodial death cases, the SOP mandates immediate requisition to the jurisdictional judicial magistrate under Section 196 of BNSS for conducting an inquest and magisterial inquiry.

The order also requires videography of the inquest mahazar and postmortem process, in compliance with Supreme Court directions and rules relating to unnatural deaths.

Local investigating officers have been instructed to involve forensic experts at the earliest, preserve biological and physical evidence, and send samples to the Forensic Science Laboratory within two days.

The CID, after taking over, has been tasked with verifying whether mandatory legal procedures were followed, ensuring compliance with videography norms during autopsy and inquest, and reconstructing the crime scene with the help of accused officers or witnesses if required.

The SOP further directs CID officers to collect postmortem reports, magisterial inquiry reports, digital evidence and statements of relatives and eyewitnesses before finalising the investigation.

DH Classifieds

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Vinod Kumar Viswanathan**, R/at # 1114, Blk2, Wing B, Suncity Gloria, Doddakanelli, Sarjapura Road, Bengaluru - 560035, have changed my minor son's name from **Prem** to **PREM VINOD VISWANATHAN** vide affidavit dated 07.05.2026 before notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru. Henceforth he shall be called as **PREM VINOD VISWANATHAN** only.

I, DHRUV MAHALE S/o Prashant Mahale aged 18 years, residing at No. S8, 2nd Floor, Royal Embassy Apartment, Gangamma Garden, Malagala Main Road, Nagarbhavi, 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560091 have changed my name from Dhruv Prashant Mahale to Dhruv Mahale vide Affidavit dated 16-05-2026 sworn before Notary Smt. M.K. Devaki, Bangalore.

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Rajnath departs for Vietnam, South Korea to boost defence cooperation

Likely to deliberate on situation in South China Sea

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday embarked on a tour to Vietnam and South Korea for further deepening of "strategic military cooperation" and boosting "maritime cooperation" amid an increasing footprint of the Chinese Navy in the Indian Ocean region.

Rajnath's visit to Vietnam comes close on the heels of Vietnam President To Lam's bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month in Delhi during which the two countries agreed upon further strengthening defence cooperation with the aim of stabilising the Indo-Pacific region.

The Defence Minister would be in Hanoi on May 18-19 for the bilateral meeting with his counterpart General Phan Van Giang and subsequently travel to South Korea for two days (May 19-21) where he would inaugurate an Indian war memorial besides having discussions on the ways to boost military engagements between New Delhi and Seoul, official sources said here.

Rajnath and Gen Giang, according to sources, are likely to deliberate on the prevailing situation in the South China Sea, a region that has witnessed increasing Chinese military muscle-flexing, amid growing concerns on China's sweeping claims of sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a big source of hydrocarbons. Other nations in the region including Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei have made counter-claims.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is welcomed in Hanoi on Monday, upon his arrival at the airport during an official visit to Vietnam. PTI PHOTO

Rajnath's visit to Vietnam marks 10 years of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations that was upgraded to the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Vietnam President's May 5-7 visit to India.

Among other things, New Delhi and Hanoi have agreed to increase the number of joint exercises and policy dialogues besides enhancing port calls by naval vessels and air force aircraft, information sharing and carrying out more hydrographic surveys.

During his visit to South Korea, Singh will hold bilateral talks with National Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back.

"The ministers will review defence cooperation between the two countries and explore new initiatives to further strengthen bilateral engagements. They will also exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Singh will also meet Minister of Defence Acquisition Programme Administration Lee, Yong-cheol and chair the India-Korea business round-table.

India made key contribution in the Korean War (1950-53), such as deploying 60 Parachute Field Ambulance of the Indian Army. Serving for more than three years, the unit treated over two lakh patients and performed about 2,500 surgeries. To honour the fallen soldiers, a joint inauguration of the Indian War Memorial with Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Kwon Oh-eul has been planned on May 21.

Bajaj Auto Foundation to set up skill centre at VIT

Senior officials of Bajaj Auto Foundation and VIT at the event.

Bajaj Auto Foundation, Pune, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) to establish the Bajaj Engineering Skills Training (BEST) Centre on the VIT campus. The centre will be set up with an investment of Rs 15 crores and will offer state-of-the-art training in Electronics Manufacturing Systems (EMS) and E-Mobility.

The initiative aims at bridging the growing skill gap between industry and academia by equipping engineering and diploma graduates, along with final-year students, with industry-relevant, hands-on skills aligned with the evolving demands of the manufacturing and automotive sectors, particularly India's rapidly expanding electric vehicle and electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Sudhakar Gudipati, Vice President – CSR, Bajaj Auto Foundation, highlighted the rapid evolution of the manufacturing and automotive industries and the resulting massive demand for a highly skilled workforce. He stated that Bajaj plans to establish more BEST centres across India to empower youth and address this gap.

Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, VIT, expressed delight at the partnership and assured that the Rs 15 crore investment would create an immersive, cutting-edge training environment, giving VIT students a distinct competitive edge in the job market.

Ramesh V, Head – CSR, Bajaj Auto Foundation, outlined the initiative's vision and highlighted scholarship schemes for socio-economically disadvantaged students to ensure inclusive access to quality skill development.

Dr P Kuppan, Dean, School of Mechanical Engineering, VIT, welcomed the gathering.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Child welfare committee seeks action against Panchamasali seer

HARIHAR, DHNS

The District Child Welfare Committee (CWC) has submitted a report to the police with regard to the allegations that Vachanananda Swami of Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Gurupeeth abused the inmates of the hostel run by the mutt.

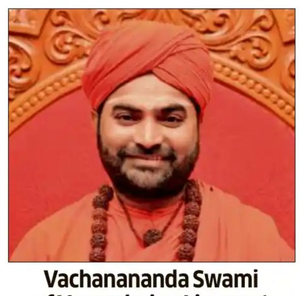
The committee recorded the statements of the three boys said to be victims and submitted a report to the rural police station on May 16. Sources have informed that it has recommended legal action in the two-page report.

Plaints from 3 parents

Three parents had complained to the committee, alleging that 'Vachanananda Swami abused their children in the mutt.'

A team led by committee chairperson Manjula Mahesh, who visited the mutt on April 17, inspected the kitchen, the children's sleeping room, the dining room and other places.

Vachanananda Swami's statement was also recorded. The Rural police are already investigating a POCSO case registered on May 8 for alleged sexual assault of a 16-year-old boy.



Vachanananda Swami of Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Gurupeeth.

Superintendent of Police H T Shekhar said the investigating officer has recorded the statements of two boys. The process of recording the statements of some others is underway.

Seer interrogation

Meanwhile, the police interrogated Vachanananda Swami for the second time for about four-hours on Monday.

VACHANANANDA SWAMI
Panchamasali seer

"I have appeared for questioning for the second time because the police issued a notice. I will fully cooperate with the police in the investigation process."

The seer, who arrived at the police station in a devotee's car, was questioned by Investigating Officer Suresh Sagari from 10 am to 2.15 pm.

'Will fully cooperate'

"I have appeared for questioning for the second time because the police issued a notice. I will fully cooperate with the police in the investigation process," the seer told reporters after leaving the station.

On May 14, the police questioned the seer for five hours for the first time and subjected him to medical examination.

Bidadi township: Land acquisition to hit...

From Page 1

Notably, the strongest opposition to acquisition is also coming from this section. On the contrary, farmers owing large tracts of land appear to be in favour of parting with their land as they have enough financial resources to wait for the 'developed site', which may take a minimum of two or three years.

As per the government order, a developed residential site as big as 9,693 square feet per acre or monetary compensation three times the guidance value are the two primary compensation packages to be offered to farmers. Officials said that a person owning five guntas can opt for a 30x40 developed site, officials said.

GN Nataraj Ganakal, president of Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) —which is implementing the township project — said no farmer who parts with the land for the project will become landless.

"They are all our people. We have designed compensation in such a way that everyone will get a minimum of one site," he said, adding that close to 90% of the farmers are in favour of the project. "We have received objections from 1,000 farmers. That's a small percentage for such a huge project."

State bracing for fertiliser shortage...

Fertiliser, from Page 1

The state has earmarked a Rs 400 crore revolving fund to maintain emergency buffer stocks.

To prevent hoarding, the government has mandated the use of the Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) ID, ensuring fertiliser distribution is strictly calibrated against verified land acreage and crop types.

Simultaneously, the state is launching a crackdown against illegal hoarding and the commercial diversion of agricultural stocks.

"Our department's vigilance wing, alongside the Commercial Taxes department and the local police, has been authorised by the Collectors to conduct continuous raids," the minister said.

"Any dealer or sub-dealer found engaging in black-marketing, price gouging, or diverting subsidised stock to industrial sectors will face immediate cancellation of their commercial licenses and legal action."

The government is also promoting the adoption of Nano Urea and Nano DAP, advanced liquid alternatives that require significantly smaller volumes than traditional granular fertilisers, alongside a renewed focus on organic manure.

Youth Congress workers come to blows at party office

BENGALURU, DHNS

A brawl broke out among Karnataka Youth Congress workers during a state-level meeting due to factional infighting on Monday.

The bone of contention was Karnataka Youth Congress president H S Manjunatha's decision to keep "on hold" the position of over a dozen office-bearers citing "inactive participation" in organisational activities. This included his rival Deepika Reddy, the state Youth Congress vice-president.

Trouble began when Deepika and others raised the issue during a meeting chaired by Youth Congress national general secretary Nigam Bhandari at the party's headquarters here. The meeting was to discuss organising protests against the Centre over the NEET paper leak on May 21.

Tempers flared up soon and workers were caught on camera brawling. "We have proof to show the work we've done. When we tried to speak about this, (Bhandari) started to leave. We insisted on seeking answers," Reddy said, accusing Manjunatha of taking "unilateral" decisions, "harassing" office-bearers and following a "divide-and-rule" policy.

Manjunatha, however, downplayed the episode. "We have kept some members on hold as they've not carried out work that was assigned to them. They wanted to raise this during a meeting meant to discuss NEET. I said their issue will be discussed separately," he said, adding that Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar would decide on disciplinary action against non-performers.

Manjunatha and Reddy battled each other for the Youth Congress presidency. Manjunatha was elected in February last year, defeating Reddy.

Bail is rule, jail is exception even in UAPA cases: SC

Supreme Court, Page 1

The court raised doubts over the decision in Gulfisha Fatima Vs State, which dealt with bail applications arising from the Delhi riots. While several accused were granted bail, a separate bench on January 5, 2026, declined to grant bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. The review plea was also rejected on April 16, 2026.

Justice Bhuyan, on behalf of the bench, said the court had serious reservations about the judgment in the Gulfisha Fatima case.

He said that the January 5 judgement did not properly follow the judgment in the K A Najeeb case of 2021, which recognised long delay in trial as a ground for bail in cases under the UAPA and can override the statutory restrictions on bail under Section 43D(5) of the Act.

"We have serious reservations on various aspects of the judgment in Gulfisha Fatima, including foreclosing the right of the two appellants to seek bail for a period of one year. The judgment in Gulfisha Fatima would have us believe that Najeeb is only a narrow and exceptional departure from Section 43-D(5) justified in extreme factual situations. It is this hollowing out of the import of the observations in Najeeb that we are concerned with," Justice Bhuyan wrote.

No reading of the Najeeb judgment suggests that the mere passage of time, divorced from all surrounding circumstances, mechanically entitles an accused to release, the court clarified.

The bench made it clear that it has no manner of doubt in stating that even under the UAPA, bail is the rule and jail is the exception.

"Najeeb is a binding law entitled to the protection of stare decisis. It cannot be diluted, circumvented, or disregarded by trial courts, High Courts or even by benches of lower strength of this court," the bench said.

Stare decisis is the legal doctrine that obligates courts to follow precedents when making rulings on similar cases.

The court, however, said in an appropriate case, bail can be denied having regard to the facts of that particular case.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka State

No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27 /IFT No.24/ 720 Date: 18-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tenders are invited induplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of Construction of Second Floor P.G.Block at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi amounting to **Rs.4,05,47,202/-** (Excluding GST). Other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **18-05-2026**.

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/270/Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:TR:KW-2&4:2026-27:504 Date: 15-05-2026.

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-2&4 on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Head of Account : KKRDB Micro Infrastructure–SCP/2025-26, KKRDB-Macro Non-Social-SDP/2022-23, 4059-CMIDP/2025-26, 5054-80-190-0-01-132-KRDCL Bridges /2025-26 & KKRDB Accrued Interest Fund-General/2024-25. Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 07 Works (Work Indent Nos:30601, 33710/Call-2, 35633, 35697, 35788, 35887 & 21972) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **01-06-2026** Time 16.00, Last Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **02-06-2026** Time 16.30. Last Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **06-06-2026** Time 16.00. Minimum & Maximum Estimate Amount of **Rs. 50.00** Lakhs & **Rs.995.00** Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

DIPR/Koppal/91/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B No. 5531, Bengaluru - Pune Highway, Bengaluru – 560055. Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** E-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**

An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

Date : 18.05.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl.No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last date of submission
1	KSDL/2026-27/SE0234	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Mysore Sandal Jasmine Bath Tablet 150g (S)	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
2	KSDL/2026-27/SE0235	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Mysore Sandal Lavender Bath Tablet 150g (S)	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
3	KSDL/2026-27/SE0236	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Rose Bath Tablet 150g for SJR	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
4	KSDL/2026-27/SE0237	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Jasmine Bath Tablet 150g for SJR	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
5	KSDL/2026-27/SE0238	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Rose Bath Tablet 150g for Gift Pack	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
6	KSDL/2026-27/SE0239	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Jasmine Bath Tablet 150g for Gift Pack	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
7	KSDL/2026-27/SE0240	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Lavender Bath Tablet 150g for Gift Pack	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
8	KSDL/2026-27/SE0241	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Mysore Sandal Herbal Care - 100g	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026
9	KSDL/2026-27/SE0242	Selection of manufacturer for Outsourcing the Production Activity (conversion) of Mysore Carbolic Soap- 150g	Services	16.05.2026	01.06.2026

For any queries contact the undersigned

Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–562 101
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಛೇರಿ: 08156–295427, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156–295427
ಇಮೇಲ್ - eemidcbpura@gmail.com

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಸಬ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ತಾಂಸ/ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್/1258/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15/05/2026

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 13/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06/11/2025 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 4702 ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ಪಿಕಪ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕೆರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಉಳಿದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15/05/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ
2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21/05/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಿಮ್ಮಾಲಕಕುಂಟೆ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ ವುಡ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗ, ಎಂ.ಜಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ – 562101.
3) ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 25/05/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27/06/2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ ಮಳೆಗಾಲವೂ ಸೇರಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ
1	Reconstruction / Restoration Of Existing Check Dams across kushavathi halla near Kotagal Village, Upparahallli Village, Byarasandra Village and Gudisalahalli Village In Chintamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.	990.00	ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಂತೆ	11 ತಿಂಗಳು	01 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
2	Reconstruction/Restoration of Existing Checkdams Across kushavathi halla near Digava Gollahalli Village, Vegalahalli Village, Bhoopanahalli, Seetharamapura Village and Nallaghuttahalli Village in Chinthamani Taluk, Chikkaballapur District.	960.00	ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಂತೆ	11 ತಿಂಗಳು	01 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು
3	Construction Of Check Dams across kushavathi halla near Upparahalli Village, Byarasandra Village, Nallaguttahalli Village and Yasagalahalli Village Chinthamani Taluk, Chikkaballapur District.	990.00	ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಂತೆ	11 ತಿಂಗಳು	01 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08156–295427 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : eemidcbpura@gmail.com ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
Scholarship Section

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme (NOS) for ST candidates for the Selection year 2026-27.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, invites online applications for the **National Overseas Scholarship Scheme (NOS) from ST candidates** for the selection year **2026-27.** The scholarship is awarded to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad at the Masters level and Ph.D. programmes.

Number of slots for Scholarship: **20 (Number of slots may vary)**

Interested Candidates may apply online through NOS Portal **https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/** The portal will remain open from **15th May 2026 to 30th June 2026 (5:30PM)** for submission of applications.

For more details candidates may visit Ministry's portal: **https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/**

CBC 43101/11/0001/2627

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017.
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - III

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Remodelling of Old labs – Clean room for HMC lab at URSC Main Campus, Bengaluru – Civil, Electrical, AC & Mechanical Works – Phase-II.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/E/C/23/2025-26 Dt.12/03/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 326.52 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto: 23:59 Hrs. on 25/05/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Extended upto 14:00 Hrs. on 01/06/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	Extended upto 14:30 Hrs. on 01/06/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

'High-Tech Harvest Hubs tackle labour crisis, boost crop yield'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for Agriculture N Chaluvarayaswamy on Monday showcased the successful field impact of the state's first-of-its-kind Rs 173-crore mechanisation initiative.

The project, which has seen the distribution of 524 'High-Tech Harvest Hubs' over the last three years, has significantly alleviated the state's reliance on erratic migrant labour by giving farmers affordable access to advanced machinery like heavy combine harvesters and mechanical sugarcane cutters.

The scheme offers financial assistance, providing up to a 50% subsidy for an enterprise unit valued at Rs 1 crore. Under the operational guidelines, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries receive a Rs 50 lakh subsidy, while general category entrepreneurs are eligible for Rs 40 lakh.

Over the last three years, these high-tech hubs have been steadily rolled out across the state, primarily to aid in highly efficient sugarcane harvesting, he said.

Highlighting the severe migrant labour crisis that historically plagued the state's agricultural belts, Swamy detailed how farmers are routinely exploited.

New app soon

Along with this, the minister announced that a new application (app) will soon be introduced in the first week of June to provide instant solutions and information to farmers regarding market prices, situation and agriculture-related problems.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 6

Corrigendum No. 6 for Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/RE-II/MLG/01/2026; **dtd.:** 04-02-2026 **against Tender No.** EL-CON-MLG-09-2025-26-D-K.

SN	Website Tender Notice detail before corrigendum, **EXISTING**	After the corrigendum in suppression of previous details, **TO BE READ AS**
1	**Closing of Tender:** 30-05-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Physical submission of Mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:-** 05-06-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Opening of tender**:- 08-06-2026, 16:00 hrs	**Closing of Tender:** 15-06-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Physical submission of Mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:-** 19-06-2026, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of tender**:- 22-06-2026, 16:00 hrs

N.B.: Other terms and conditions of tender will remain same. For Detail please visit N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. CEE/CON/HQ, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Chamarajpet Division, 2nd Main, T. R. Mill Road,
Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560018.

No:EE/CRP/KPPP/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 16.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Zone-2, BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation / KPWD / Electrical / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for Package-2: Construction of School Building and Improvements of Dialysis Centre, Burial Ground, SKR Market and Parks along with Providing and Installation of CC Cameras and School Furnitures in Chamarajpet Division (Call-2). **(Est. Cost ₹ 1775.00 Lakhs).** **PMC COST (₹ in Lakhs): 17.75, EMD (in ₹): 44,375/-.**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for Package-3: Construction of Retaining wall, Multi-purpose builidng, Samudhaya Bhavana and Improvements of Hindu Burial Ground in Chamarajpet Division. **(Est. Cost ₹ 1025.00 Lakhs).** **PMC COST (₹ in Lakhs): 10.25, EMD (in ₹): 25,625/-.**

Calendar of Events: Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal from: **19.05.2026. (2).** Date of Pre bid meeting on : **21-05-2026 at 11.00 a.m. (3)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on : 30.05.2026. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on : **01-06-2026 at 11:30 a.m.** or next working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC.

GOVT TOOL ROOM & TRAINING CENTRE
Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 010.
Phone No.080-23157189, **Fax:** 080-23301683
Website:**www.karnataka.gov.in/gttc**
e-Mail: **gttc.projects@karnataka.gov.in**
Ref. GTTC/PROJ/CIVIL-ELE/WORKS/BD-162/2026-27 Date:19.05.2026

SHORT-TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders for the following works have been invited through e-Procurement by the Goverment Tool Room and Training Centre.

Sl.No.	BID No.	GTTC Centre Name	Name of work
1	162	Talakal	Establishment of GTTC-MSDC at Talakal, Koppal District.

Tender Documents are available on the e-portal from **20.05.2026** and Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled on **29.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M.** The last date for submission of tender in the e-Portal is **04.06.2026 before 5.30 PM.** For more details, please visit the e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact helpline number: +91 9240214000 +91 9240214001

Sd/- Executive Engineer

An autonomous Institute under Government of Karnataka
K.H.PATIL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GADAG
Formerly called as Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences, Gadag Mulagunda Road, Mallasamudra Gadag-582103
Ph No. 08372-200601 E-mail Id: gimsgadag@gmail.com
Website : www. gimsgadag.karnataka.gov.in
File No : KHPIMS/Tender/Cost Per Test/20/2026-27
Date : 18.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Call of Tablets Tenders, to K.H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences, Teaching Hospital Gadag. Tender has been floated in E-Portal DME/2026-27/IND2334 (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) Interested Institutions, Manufacturers and suppliers can visit above website from **19.05.2026** to **05.06.2026** by evening 4:00 PM, If any queries contact below Signed Person in time of Govt. Working Days.

Sd/- Director,
K H Patil Institute of Medical Sciences, Gadag
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/73/2026-27

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: SBC-SG-6QGRSBOX-REL Dated : 11-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Item of work	Approx. Value
Reliability improvement of 6 quad cable by providing Half GRS box at water logging areas and between IB sections/Block section for easy maintenance/isolation of induced voltage over Bengaluru Division.	**Rs. 4,36,44,386/-**

Last date for submission of bids :
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 02-06-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Bengaluru
PUB/123/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

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ENGINEERING WORKS

Tender Notice No. CON/2026/MAY/02; Dated:08-05-2026. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor (s)/firm(s) for the following works. **Tender No.** CE/CON/EPC/ANJ/2026/01. **Name of work:** RFP for Construction of 8 Nos. of Major Bridges and rebuilding of 3 Nos. of ROB, including associated S and T works in connection with Aluabari Road (AUB)-New Jalpaiguri (NJP) 3rd and 4th Line (57Km) of Northeast Frontier Railway. **Approximate Value:** ₹373,40,40,340.24/-; E-tender will be closed at **14:30 hrs.** on **19-06-2026** and opened at **15:30 hrs.** on **25-06-2026.** For details of Tender and any Corrigendum, please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

Chief Engineer/Con/New Jalpaiguri Project/Maligaon
Northeast Frontier Railway
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

KOLAR DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., KOLAR
[P.B No. 63, N.H-75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331, 7760964517
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com

IFT No. KMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 999 /2026-27 Date: 18.05.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Kolar Milk Union Limited, Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl. No.	Description of Material / Equipments	Qty
01.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Renovated A3 Speed TBA 1000 S Mid with FlexiCap (or bypass), Product & utilities pipes and connections on Buy back basis of TBA/8 1000B filler along with spares to KOMUL	01 Job

Access to E-tender Documents : **18.05.2026 to 17.06.2026 5.30 PM**
Last date for submission : **on or before 17.06.2026, 5.30 PM**
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : **19.06.2026, 11.00 AM onwards**
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**.

Sd/-
M.D.KOMUL

INSTITUTE OF NEPHRO-UROLOGY
(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute-Regd. No.1052/03-04)
Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02. e-Mail: nephrourology.institute@gmail.com
Website: www.nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in
No: INU/TND/ADMN/PROC/123/2026 Date:18.05.2026

NOTIFICATION

Institute of Nephro-Urology, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the following subjects.

1. Providing Group C Services for the Year 2026-27
   Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is 17.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M
1. Disposal of Garbage for the Year 2026-27.
2. Disposal of Biomedical Waste for KSRD & Herohalli Dialysis Unit.
3. Disposal of Biomedical Waste for INU (CALL-2).
4. Procurement of Medical Equipments for Annex Building (CALL-2).
5. Procurement of Endoscope Camera (High End) (CALL-2).
6. Procurement of Laproscopic Set (CALL-2).

Last Date For Online Submission of Tender is 02.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M. For any further details please log on to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://nephrourology.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/- Director, Institute of Nephro-Urology, Bengaluru

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पुनः ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/DEOGHAR/01/RE1/2026-27

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	देवघर जिला के देवीपुर प्रखंड अन्तर्गत भारतीडीह एवं मथुरापुर के बीच उच्चस्तरीय पुल निर्माण।	113846600.00	2277000.00	10000.00	24 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – **20.05.2026**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक **21.05.2026** से दिनांक **10.06.2026** को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, देवघर
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – **12.06.2026** अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – **06432313875** (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर

PR 380098 Rural Development(26-27)#D

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

Open E-Tender Notice No: RWP/STORES/WORKS/ADVT/26-27/01, Dated:15.05.2026. Tender No. RWP_S_CUT_SEMIAUTO_25-26A, Due on 04.06.2026" Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) www. ireps.gov.in for Rail cutting **(1) Name of work with its location, Qty and completion period:** SUPPLY INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF SEMI AUTOMATED WHEEL CUTTING AND RAIL CUTTING SYSTEM AND TRANSPORTATION OF CUT SCRAP FROM SPC BAY TO MELT SHOP, (PLEASE REFER UPLOADED TENDER DOCUMENT). Completion period: 36 months from the date of issuance of LOA. **(2)Approx. cost of the work:** Rs. 10,58,37,480/- **(3) Earnest Money to be Deposited:** Rs. 2116800/- **(4)Tender closing date and time:** 04.06.2026 up to 14:00 hrs. **(5)Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal **(www.ireps.gov.in)** for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/21 RWP/Bela

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್
ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:
01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–Iರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಏಕ & ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ದತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) kppportal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.06.2026** ರ **16.30** ರವರೆಗೆ. (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.06.2026** ರಂದು **4.35** ನಂತರ. (3) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ): ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:65/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Horizontal Extension of CATVAC Cleanroom at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, Electrical, Airconditioning and other allied works).
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/C/01/2026-27 dated: 08/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 491.72 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 29/05/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 05/06/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 05/06/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids against bid enquiry numbers for the following works.

No: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-1(123)/26-27/841-42 Date:18.05.2026

1. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/EE(O)/AEE-1/26-27/EPR-02, Call-2, Dated 09.04.2026** for Strengthening of 66kV DG-4 [HBR-Hennur] by replacing existing Coyote conductor by HPC Conductor of ampacity 700A from Geddalahalli cable tapping tower till 66/11kV Hennur cable tapping tower for a length of 230 Mtrs & 02 Spans in TLM Sub-division, Hoody.

No: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/26-27/F-310(06)/843-44 Date:18.05.2026

2. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/S-Circle/ EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-19/Call-3 Dt:28.11.2025** for "Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of DG set: 58.5kVA Diesel Generator set, rated at 58.5kVA, 415V, 0.8pf, mounted on a base frame, complete with inbuilt fuel tank and battery 1 No. 12V & inbuilt standard manual Control Panel with acoustic enclosure: NAL Approved DG set 58.5kVA capacity with AMF panel as per specification at 220/66/11kV R/s Somanahalli in Operation Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru on Total turnkey basis"

No: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/26-27/845-46 Date:18.05.2026

3. Bid Enquiry No: **No. KPTCL/SEE/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-57/Dtd:02.01.2023/(Call-11)** for "Replacement of age old, Pneumatic type 31.5kA, 66kV SF6 breakers by spring mechanism type 40/50kA breakers at 220/66/11kV station, Somanahalli in TL&SS Division, Somanahalli, Bengaluru on Total Turn Key Basis including supply of all matching materials/equipment's including 66kV Breakers and Conductors and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipment's, testing and commissioning".

The Bids will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website:**https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.05.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele.,)
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru.

POWER COMPANY OF KARNATAKA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN: U40101KA2007SGC043640)
4th Floor, INDHANA BHAVANA, Race Course Road
Bengaluru - 560009.

No. PCKL/Legal Cell/2025-26/124/1088-89 **DATE : 18.05.2026**

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION

PCKL issued Notificatin for engagement of One Legal Officer on Contract Basis vide Ref. No. PCKL/Legal/Cell/2025-26/124/432, Date : 21.04.2026 published on 04.05.2026 in this newspaper. The changes proposed for qualification criteria as under :

Sl. No.	Existing :	Read as :
1	Have a minimum of 3 years of experience as an Advocate.	**Have a Minimum of 5 years of experience as an Advocate.**
2	Interested candidates may apply by downloading the application through our website www. pckl.karnataka.gov.in from 04.05.2026 to 03.06.2026.	Interested candidates may apply by downloading th application through our website **www. pckl.karnataka.gov.in** from **19.05.2026 to 18.06.2026.**
3	Last date for submission of Applications : 03.06.2026 on or before 5.30 pm.	Last date for submission of Applications : **18.06.2026 on or before 5.30 pm.**

All other terms and conditions of the Notification date : 04.05.2026 remains unaltered.

Sd/-
Additional Director (Project)
PCKL, Bengaluru

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No:BDA/EE/HPD-2/TEN/T-12/2026-27 Date: 18.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Bangalore Development Authority has invited tender for Improvement works of Kommaghatta (NPKL) Housing Project Phase1,2&3 **(1)**BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT234/Call-2 **(2)** BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT235/Call-2 **(3)** BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 236/Call-2

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **20.05.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **25.05.2026, 2.30 P.M. (3)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **29.05.2026, 3.30 P.M. (4)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **30.05.2026 after 4.00 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-2 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-2, BDA, Bengaluru

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಅಣ್ಣಿಗೇರಿ
ಗದಗ–ನವಲಗುಂದ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಅಣ್ಣಿಗೇರಿ–582201
ಜಿ: ಧಾರವಾಡ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 08380–222740
Website :www.annigeritown.mrc.gov.in

ಕ್ರಸಂ:ಪುಸಅ/Office Building/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ವಹಿ/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–05–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಅಣ್ಣಿಗೇರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ Grants for infrastructure of upgraded ULBs and New ULBs form GPS ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ **ರೂ. 615.25 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಪುರಸಭೆ ನೂತನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇಂಡೆಟ್ ನಂ.**DMA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT58252** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ ವಿಳಾಸ: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

(1) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–05–2026**
(2) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–06–2026**
(3) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **as per kppp portal**
(4) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸೂಚನೆ : ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಅಣ್ಣಿಗೇರಿ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಅಣ್ಣಿಗೇರಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/193/2026–27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ: 09/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.05.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW–4 ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.05.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 19.05.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 29.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 9 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 2 (ಎರಡು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:– (1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. (2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/135/2026–27

Modi ignores scribe in Oslo, faces Congress flak at home

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday ignored a Norwegian journalist's request to answer a few questions, prompting the Congress to take a jibe at him by calling him a "compromised PM".

"Prime Minister Modi, why don't you take some questions from the freest press of the world?" Helle Lyng, a journalist, was heard asking Modi as he was leaving the podium after addressing the media with his Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Støre in Oslo. However, Modi did not take any questions and walked out of the room.

Later, Lyng — who introduced herself as a commentator in the Norwegian newspaper *Dagsavisen* — wrote on social media, "Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, would not take my question. I was not expecting him to."

"Norway has the number one spot on the World Press Freedom Index, India is at 157th, competing with Palestine, the Emirates and Cuba," she noted, apparently referring to the latest rankings released by Reporters sans Frontières.

Back home, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote on social media, "What happens to India's image when the world sees a compromised PM panic and run from a few questions?"

The Embassy of India in Oslo responded to Lyng on X, inviting her to attend a briefing by officials of the Ministry of External Affairs on Modi's visit to Norway.

'Green strategic partnership' in focus as Modi inks deals in Oslo

PM pushes for blue economy, shipbuilding, among others

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Norway on Monday elevated the bilateral relations to a green strategic partnership as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart in the Northern European nation, Jonas Gahr Støre, met in Oslo and witnessed the signing of agreements for cooperation in space, digital development, health and technology.

New Delhi and Oslo also inked an agreement for specialised consultancy services for the construction of tunnels, slope stability and capacity building.

"Today, we are elevating India-Norway relations into a Green Strategic Partnership," Modi said after meeting with Støre. "Through this strategic partnership, our companies will develop global solutions across sectors — from clean energy to climate resilience, and from the blue economy to green shipping—by combining India's scale, speed, and talent with Norway's technology and capital."

Modi called for greater Norwegian investments in India in key sectors such as the blue economy, shipbuilding, green transition, renewable energy, health-tech, critical minerals and start-ups.

He also underscored India's ambitious green transition agenda, emphasising the country's scale, growing energy demands, climate commitments and rapid expansion in renewable energy, grid infrastructure, green hydrogen and clean energy.

The prime minister urged the business communities of both countries to forge new partnerships, identify emerging areas of collaboration and strengthen economic cooperation.

Modi noted that 10% of Norway's ships were presently being made in India, and called for efforts to take manufacturing to 25%.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives Norway's top honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, during a ceremony in Oslo. PTI

FTA opportunities

Norway is one of the four members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which inked a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with India in March 2024. The India-EFTA trade deal came into effect on October 1, 2025.

Modi, who is the first Indian prime minister to visit Norway, said on Monday that New Delhi had set the target to bring in investments of $100 billion into India from the EFTA nations under the trade deal, in addition to creating one million jobs over the next 15 years.

His Norwegian counterpart noted that the trade and economic partnership agreement was an open door, and that the country has "certain ambitions to contribute in India".

"But it's important for me to say also to the Norwegian public that this will also help the job solidity and creation in Norway. We work together to reduce emissions, improve healthcare, and contribute to supply chains and security of transactions," he added.

EPS invites rebels for talks, asks them not to trust TVK

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Tuesday extended an olive branch to the party's rebel leaders by asking them to "come for talks" if they believed that there were problems within the Dravidian outfit, even as he launched a frontal attack on the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

Edappadi K Palaniswami

The invitation came amid a signature campaign by the rebels demanding the convening of the General Council — the AIADMK's highest decision-making body — to discuss successive electoral defeats.

To counter their move, Palaniswami has convened a meeting of district secretaries — including the fresh appointees in place of MLAs who were removed from party positions—on Tuesday as a show of strength.

Interestingly, Palaniswami has convened the meeting at his Greenways Road residence instead of the party headquarters.

The rebels have so far not made any headway in their rebellion against Palaniswami due to the TVK remaining noncommittal on their support for Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's government; they want to join the Cabinet.

On the eve of the district secretaries' meeting, Palaniswami said problems were natural in any political party, and expressed his willingness to engage in talks with the rebels.

"Let us solve our problems through discussion. The TVK government, which is dependent on support from five parties, will not last long," he said in a veiled message to his colleagues not to trust the ruling party.

He also said he would continue to follow the principles of party founder M G Ramachandran and late supremo J Jayalalithaa in "forgiving" partymen who regret their mistakes. "Our party will overcome every crisis and bounce back soon," he added.

Palaniswami also alleged that the TVK government had attempted to engineer defections within the AIADMK through inducements and "horse-trading".

He also dismissed talks between the DMK and the AIADMK to form a government to keep away TVK as "speculation".

Kerala: Satheesan-led UDF govt takes charge, starts with poll promises

Focuses on free bus rides for women, elderly care, remuneration hikes

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Newly sworn in Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra interact with an elderly woman during the swearing-in ceremony of the new Council of Ministers, in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

The V D Satheesan-led UDF government took charge in Kerala on Monday, marking the return of the Congress to power in the South Indian state after 10 years.

The 21-member Cabinet, in its first meeting, decided to implement a set of poll promises — including free bus rides for women from June 15, a new department for the elderly, and increased remuneration for various sections, like Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers.

The maiden Cabinet meeting also decided to reinvestigate the brutal assault of Youth Congress workers by police personnel in December 2023 in Alappuzha for waving black flags at then-chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Cabinet colleagues.

New CM V D Satheesan told reporters that the modalities of free bus rides for women would be decided in due course.

The department for elderly persons would be the first of its type in the country, initiating schemes along the lines of Japan's elderly support and care facilities.

"A key yardstick of a civilised society is the life of elderly people. By improving their quality of life, Kerala should be able to showcase itself as a highly civilised society," he said.

The Cabinet decided to hike the remuneration of ASHA workers by Rs 3,000, and that of Anganwadi workers, helpers, cooking staff in schools, and pre-primary school teachers by Rs 1,000.

Free bus rides for women and a new department for the elderly were among the five "Indira guarantees" the Congress-led UDF gave during campaigning. The UDF earlier assured a remuneration hike for ASHA workers and others.

Satheesan said that once the government's financial situation improved, there would be further remuneration hikes for the weaker sections of society.

A white paper on the state's financial situation would be published, and a detailed plan for improving its finances would be chalked out soon, he said.

The CM also said that the decision to order a re-probe by a special team into the police assault of Youth Congress workers need not be interpreted as a vindictive action.

A local court in Alappuzha had earlier ordered a re-investigation. However, the previous government did not act on it, he said.

Youth Congress activist A D Thomas, who was among those assaulted, won the recent Assembly election from Alappuzha.

The UDF government also decided to appoint Jaju Babu as the advocate general and T S Asif Ali as the director general of prosecution.

Festive mood marks UDF swearing-in ceremony

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The mood was festive in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday as the 21-member Cabinet of Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) took the oath of office and secrecy.

Thousands of workers and supporters from various parties from across the state, as well as from neighbouring states, flowed into the state capital.

Many came in groups, in vehicles decorated with party flags and pictures of leaders.

Top Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi arrived to the rising excitement levels of party workers. Priyanka, who is an MP from the state, was in a traditional Kerala sari.

The event began with a full rendition of "Vande Mataram", followed by the National Anthem.

As V D Satheesan took oath as the chief minister, Congress workers' and supporters' excitement levels reflected the landslide victory that the UDF had achieved.

TN's bipolar politics of DMK and AIADMK is over: PTR

CHENNAI, DHNS: Former Tamil Nadu Finance and IT Minister P T R Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Monday said the bipolar politics of DMK and AIADMK was over and that the state has entered a "new era" with TVK's victory in the Assembly polls.

" ...the end of the current era of bipolar DMK/ADMK politics, and the start of a new era (over the last year). In fact, I stated that the share of statewide votes for the TVK in the 2026 General Election would determine if this was the last election of the old era (if TVK got around 15%), or the first election of the new era (if TVK got up to 25%)," the DMK leader wrote in a social media post.

Thiaga Rajan, a former top banker who lost the Assembly elections from Madurai (Central) seat, took to social media to announce his sabbatical and said he would use the break to finish writing a book and accept invitations to deliver talks on various topics.

On Tamil Nadu's political transition, he wrote, "I must admit that I never saw a scenario in which it would get to 35%, as it did. In fact, I underestimated all three trends in scale and speed. We are surely in the new era — and some of us have experienced the transition through personal loss... Change is relentless, and those who cannot adapt become irrelevant."

His comments came on a day when PTR's boss and DMK President M K Stalin claimed that the TVK did no field work but managed to win the April 23 Assembly polls by influencing people using social media.

PTR's four-page note triggered speculation about his future moves with many faulting the DMK for not "using his expertise" for the whole of its five-year tenure. In the post, PTR did say he had originally planned to exit politics in 2026 but withdrew the move and contested elections only to complete unfinished projects.

Bareilly's iconic jhumka gets a modern makeover

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The "jhumka" (earring) of Bareilly—made immortal by "Jhumka Gira Re", the 1966 Bollywood chartbuster sung by Asha Bhosle from Sunil Dutt and Sadhana-starrer movie "Mera Saya" — has been redesigned, apparently to make it more attractive, modern, and magnificent.

For years, Bareilly's Jhumka Crossing — situated at the entry point of the city from the direction of Delhi — has been a major attraction for residents as well as visitors, who often click pictures with the huge "jhumka" installed there. It has come to be regarded as a symbol of the city's cultural identity and pride.

With the passage of time, however, the "jhumka" was seen to have lost some of its sheen.

Apparently concerned that the town was losing its iconic symbol, the Bareilly Municipal Corporation (BMC) decided to give it a facelift. Thus, the earring was removed, given a comprehensive makeover, and reinstalled. It is likely to be officially unveiled "soon".

"The jhumka will have a completely new look... It has undergone a complete makeover through the incorporation of intricate artistic details," said a BMC official familiar with the renovation.

He said that it now has a "brass-like finish" that would ensure that its lustre remained undimmed for several years.

Yogi warns against 'namaz' on roads

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Days ahead of 'Eid-ul Adha' (Bakrid), Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warned Muslims against offering 'namaz' (prayers) on roads, saying that the government would not allow anarchy on the streets in the state.

"If they (Muslims) follow the rules peacefully, it's well and good; else, we will resort to some other measure," Adityanath said at a media event on Monday.

"Roads are for the movement of traffic... We will not allow namaz on them... No one has the right to stop the movement of traffic or organise religious programmes on roads," the chief minister said.

"People ask me if namaz is not offered on the roads in Uttar Pradesh...I tell them no. Not at all. There are designated places for religious events, and they should be held there only," he added.

YOGI ADITYANATH
UP Chief Minister

"If you lack the space to accommodate everyone in your homes, then you must exercise control over your numbers (population). Furthermore, if you wish to coexist within this system, you must abide by its rules and laws.

'Do it in shifts'

"Some people told me that the space becomes smaller owing to the greater number of people offering Namaz. I suggest to them that they offer namaz in shifts... We will not stop them, but it can't be on roads," he remarked.

'Control population'

"If you (Muslims) don't have space in your homes, then control your population... Why are you increasing your numbers if you don't have the capability?...Start following the rules and regulations if you have to live within the system," Adityanath said.

He said the government would not let chaos prevail on the roads. "Pyar se manege to thik hai, nahin to doosra tarika ajmayenge" (if they comply with the orders, it's well and good; else, we will take other measures), he added.

The CM said his government has adopted a positive approach towards governance and has worked without any discrimination -- be it on the basis of caste, region, language, or religion.

13 dead, 20 injured in Palghar tempo-trailer accident

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
PALGHAR, DHNS

At least 13 persons were killed and over two dozen were injured on Monday in a collision on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway between a container-truck and a tempo carrying people to an engagement ceremony in Maharashtra's Palghar district.

The accident, which took place around 4 pm, sent a shockwave through the entire Mumbai metropolitan region.

Both vehicles overturned due to the accident's impact in Dhanivari in the Palghar district's Dahanu taluka.

The Palghar district civil and police administration rushed to the spot, and started rescue and relief operations. The Kasa Police Station is investigating the matter.

The police said more than 40 people were travelling in the truck, though some reports claimed the number exceeded 100.

Kasa Police Station Senior Inspector Amar Patil said the injured were shifted to the Kasa Sub-District Hospital, with some believed to be in critical condition. At least a dozen of them were being shifted to bigger hospitals.

Traffic movement on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway was briefly affected because of the accident.

The tempo was carrying people to the engagement ceremony of one Balaram Jairam Dandekar from the Bapugaon Khadkipada village.

A statement from the Palghar district administration said the tempo was moving on the wrong side of the Mumbai-Gujarat lane.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said around 20 people were injured in this incident, adding: "I am in constant touch with the district administration," he said.

The Maharashtra government announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased.

People gather near the overturned vehicles after a tempo carrying guests to an engagement ceremony collided with a container truck on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway near Dhaniwari village, in Palghar, Maharashtra, on Monday. PTI

10 killed as van collides head-on with truck on UP highway

LAKHIMPUR KHERI (UP), PTI: Ten people were killed when a van collided head-on with a truck on the Sisaiya-Lakhimpur National Highway on Monday, police said.

The van was going to Sisaiya from Lakhimpur when the accident took place between Unchgaon and Bharehta villages.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased from the PM National Relief Fund and Rs 50,000 for the injured, while the Uttar Pradesh government announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the families of each victim.

District Magistrate Anjani Kumar Singh told reporters that the van collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction, leading to nine casualties on the spot, while one succumbed to injuries at the district hospital.

Church leaders to broker peace amid Manipur hostage crisis

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Church leaders on Monday offered to broker peace in Manipur as Naga and Kuki organisations heightened protests for the release of 20 hostages belonging to both communities.

A 10-member team of the Council for Baptist Churches in North East India and the Manipur Baptist Convention met Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh in Imphal. Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho, a Naga, was also present.

"The church leaders have volunteered to broker peace between the two communities. The church leaders will be engaging in two teams to work for peace. While one team will travel to Kangpokpi district, another team will visit Senapati district. The church leaders strongly feel that hostages on both sides need to be released on humanitarian ground urgently," said a statement issued by the CM's office.

The team that will travel to Kangpokpi will meet the families of the three church leaders killed on May 13. It will then speak to the Kuki Church leaders of Kangpokpi. Those visiting Senapati will meet the Naga Church leaders and civil society organisations.

Meanwhile, hundreds of trucks remained stranded on NH-2 due to the blockade by Naga groups.

Andhra eyes strategic role in global nuclear economy

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Monday said the state is positioning itself as a trusted long-term partner in the emerging global nuclear economy, as rising AI-driven electricity demand and industrial decarbonisation reshape global energy strategies.

Speaking at the US Executive Nuclear Mission to India summit in New Delhi — jointly organised by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) — Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh sees significant opportunities across nuclear manufacturing, engineering ecosystems, industrial supply chains, advanced energy infrastructure and next-generation clean technology partnerships.

"Global energy systems are entering a structural transition driven by AI compute growth, industrial electrification, energy security concerns and decarbonisation commitments. The state intends to play a meaningful role in that transition," he said.

Clean energy investment

Andhra Pradesh's Integrated Clean Energy Policy targets nearly Rs 10 lakh crore in investments across renewables, storage, green hydrogen, transmission infrastructure, manufacturing ecosystems and grid modernisation, the minister said.

"Andhra Pradesh is approaching nuclear energy not merely as a power sector opportunity, but as a long-term industrial ecosystem opportunity," he said, adding that Visakhapatnam is being positioned as a major AI and data centre hub, with nearly 6 GW of data centre capacity expected to come up in the coming years.

"Our objective is not just to host data centres. We want to build manufacturing ecosystems around them," he said.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Bhojshala ruling alters a fragile balance

By declaring the Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has drawn on principles that shaped the Supreme Court's judgment in the Ayodhya-Babri Masjid case. The court set aside a 2003 order of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) that restricted the right of Hindus to worship within the complex to once a week and permitted prayers by Muslims on Fridays. As in the Ayodhya-Babri Masjid ruling, the court said the state government may consider earmarking land within the district for constructing a mosque or a place for prayers. A Saraswati idol has since been installed in the complex, and devotees have started worshipping at the site.

The assumptions and arguments that led the court to conclude the complex was a Hindu religious site have been disputed based on historical records, archaeological evidence, and other documents. The ASI changed its position on the complex over time. Though the verdict is being appealed in the Supreme Court, a decision, going by precedents, will not be out soon. Notably, the apex court is yet to pass its judgment on the challenges to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, which prohibits altering the religious character of places of worship from their status on August 15, 1947. The MP High Court ruled that the ban did not apply to the Bhojshala dispute. In December 2024, the Supreme Court ordered a freeze on new suits and directed lower courts not to pass effective orders or surveys on pending matters. However, in January this year, it said the MP High Court could open the ASI's sealed report regarding the character of the disputed complex. The High Court's latest order is based on this report, which has also been criticised over the authenticity of its findings.

Disrupting the *status quo* on the character of religious sites risks deepening communal divisions

The spirit of the 1991 law and the 2024 order of the Supreme Court demanded that disputes over religious sites are not raked up, in the interest of social and communal harmony in the country. However, established legal positions seem to have been rendered dead letters now, enabling a reopening of such disputes. History and archaeology can be interpreted in diverse and even contradictory ways. The interpretations often favour the interests of those in power. It is important for India's secular fabric and the co-existence of its communities that these disputes are not allowed to deepen the divisions of society. It is also upon the courts to ensure this.

The costs of regularising chaos

Bengaluru's latest building bye-law relaxation may offer immediate relief to thousands of households, but it reinforces a dangerous civic culture: in India's technology capital, breaking rules is increasingly rewarded rather than punished. The Karnataka government's decision to increase permissible construction deviations from 5% to 15% is being projected as a practical solution to a deepening urban crisis. Nearly three lakh properties across the Greater Bengaluru Area lack Occupancy Certificates (OCs) due to plan deviations. Following the Supreme Court's December 2024 order barring permanent utility connections to such buildings, lakhs of residents were pushed into uncertainty, relying on temporary connections despite having invested life savings in their homes. The amendment is expected to benefit roughly 1.2 to 1.5 lakh properties whose violations fall within the revised limits. For middle-class homeowners on small plots in a city where soaring land prices make every square foot valuable, the move may appear both humane and inevitable.

However, what was originally conceived as a narrow relief mechanism for minor, marginal deviations in small residential properties has evolved into a far broader regularisation framework. Expanding that threshold fundamentally alters the principle of enforcement. While the government has attempted to contain the damage – restricting the 15% FAR relaxation to plots below 5,000 sq ft, capping height deviations at 7.5%, and barring regularisation of entirely unauthorised floors – the philosophical shift remains undeniable. More disturbing is that almost no accountability is being fixed on civic officials who ignored, enabled, or looked the other way while these violations proliferated. The state is also attempting a legal workaround to the Supreme Court's ruling by effectively rewriting the criteria for securing the OC. Once a building owner pays compounding fees and penalties, the deviation becomes legal, enabling authorities to approve it without technically violating the Court's directive. This may satisfy the letter of the law, but it risks violating its spirit.

Bengaluru cannot afford an urban planning model weakened by routinely legitimised violations

The scheme will generate substantial revenue for Bengaluru's cash-strapped civic corporations, incentivised further by a three-month 50% discount window on compounding fees. Yet this easy revenue carries long-term costs. Increased densification will place enormous stress on already collapsing infrastructure – water supply, sewage networks, roads, and stormwater drains. More troubling is the precedent being set. If violations can routinely be legalised through a fee, compliance becomes optional. Honest builders are penalised, while violators simply factor penalties into project costs. Bengaluru cannot aspire to become a truly global city while simultaneously institutionalising a culture where urban planning laws are treated as negotiable instruments.

REFRAMING G2

Trump visit: Optics aside, China holds the upper hand

Short on agreements and clear outcomes, the visit signalled a stronger Beijing ready to project its global power

SRIKANTH KONDAPALLI

In his remarks at the Raisina Dialogue on March 5 this year, United States Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said, "We are not going to make the same mistakes with India that we made with China 20 years ago." He was alluding to the US' engagement with China, inviting the country to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), pumping in investments and technology, providing market access, and nudging American allies to contribute to China's rise.

However, the US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing on May 13-15 seems to be repeating that "mistake", despite the optics. America's leading CEOs who accompanied Trump, among them Elon Musk, Tim Cook, and Jensen Huang, were there to explore China's market further. Why China? In American assessments, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) guarantees efficient utilisation of wage labour, compared to India. There is a downside, though, with Chinese companies. What works in China may not hold elsewhere. The Brazilian Labour Ministry's 2024 strictures against China's BYD car factory for "slavery-like conditions" and human trafficking are a case in point. At home, the story is different. In Zhengzhou, BYD, which owns the world's largest auto plant globally by area, also owns the land, hires directly, runs dorms, and receives state support. In Brazil, contractors imported workers and ran into trouble due to incorrect paperwork and long hours. The BYD factory in Hungary's Szeged also witnessed allegations of long work-hours.

Western rankings show China as investor-friendly. The country provides tax holidays, land, energy, and special economic zones, while India does not, and is straddled with controls, labour unrest, and divisive politics. India needs to take note of this and create a lonely furrow or a bandwagon with other democratic middle powers.

However, despite the fanfare, Trump's visit did not result in major commercial deals with China as the balance of power shifted amid the US's losses in the Iranian conflict. During his last visit to Beijing in November 2017, China promised to invest over $250 billion in the US, a promise that was never realised. In the current round, too, there was mention of creating a board of investment in non-sensitive areas. This would, of course, depend on how the two countries take their bilateral relations forward.

The US sought China's investments as compensation for the trade surplus of over $8.9 trillion. Last year, China's trade surplus was nearly $200 billion out of a total trade volume of $414 billion. This was partly due to the US-imposed tariffs. China had a trade surplus with India of more than $1.6 trillion over the last two decades, but invested only $3.2 billion in India.

China did not announce any deal on the purchase of Nvidia's H200 chips. Earlier, the Biden administration imposed restrictions on exporting advanced semiconductors to China because they were intended for military purposes.

A new, strategic pivot

Significant also is the Chinese formulation of bilateral relations as a "constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability." President Hu Jintao, during his visit to the US in 2006, desired "long-term and stable constructive and cooperative" relations. After China became the second largest economy, during his January 2011 visit to the US, Jintao suggested "equality, mutual trust, and the precept of seeking common ground while reserving differences". His successor, Xi Jinping, reiterated these points and suggested the emergence of a 'G2' between the two countries. Xi would like these phrases to be binding on the US's conduct "in the next three years and beyond".

Xi Jinping, in his speech, raised an important query: "Can China and the US overcome the so-called Thucydides Trap and create a new paradigm of major-country relations?". The trap is the ambition of a rising power threatening the existing dominant power, reflected in Greek history between Athens and Sparta.

Xi had alluded to the Thucydides Trap earlier in his speeches in 2013, 2015, 2023, and 2024. Its repetition now with Trump indicates the growing tension between the two on Taiwan and other issues, and perhaps to elicit US responses in favour of Beijing. Xi, in his speech, stated: "If handled well, the relationship can remain overall stable; if mishandled, it could lead to clashes or even conflict, pushing ties into a very dangerous situation." Trump's suggestion that the US is unwilling to fight 9,500 miles away (in the Taiwan Straits) indicates that the US has conceded, at least partly, to the Chinese demand, even though US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that nothing had changed in the US policy on Taiwan.

There appears to be some consensus on another contentious issue. Although the US and China were in rival camps during the Iran conflict, the depletion of US power and American dependence on China's (and Pakistan's) mediation are visible in two outcomes from Xi's meeting with Trump: the Iranian nuclear issue and the militarisation of the Strait of Hormuz. Both leaders agreed that the strait should remain open and that Iran should not have nuclear weapons.

The inclusion of Secretary of War Pete Hegseth in the US delegation is a surprise, as no Secretary of Defence was included in Presidential tours to China, barring the 1972 visit. Xi mentioned the possibility of military relations between the two countries in the near future.

There was pomp at Zhongnanhai and the nine-course meal banquet, but Trump essentially returned empty-handed after his visit, with China asserting over Taiwan and ushering in G2, and with no major trade or investment concessions from Beijing. China has the advantage in this round, and the newfound confidence in Beijing could also constrain New Delhi.

(The writer is a professor in Chinese Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Hankering for the hard copy

A newspaper invites sharing in ways e-readers seldom can

ANAND SIMHA

It does not seem too long ago when almost every house was used to the morning newspaper landing on its porch with a thud. My mornings are defined by this sheaf of printed sheets, so much so that an uncommon delivery delay makes me fidgety. Close friends have chided me for my preference for real print, dismissing it as meaningless orthodoxy. My disdain for e-readers has landed me the opprobrium of being a luddite. I have brushed all these aside, and my devotion to the hard copy is unwaveringly solid. At the end of the day, a newspaper is news printed on paper and can be nothing else, in my opinion.

The only time I had paused newspaper delivery was during the initial days of the pandemic. Anything brought into the house had to be washed thoroughly, and the newspaper was one item that could not be subjected to this treatment. My mornings weren't the same during this brief interlude. Having to stare at a computer screen for my news, I felt like a fish out of water.

Opening the centrefold of a newspaper and spreading it with both hands lets you scan a large reading ground while letting you dive deeper into a specific item of interest. Compare that with the swiping, scrolling or clicking demanded by a digital device. The hard copy lends itself to sharing piecemeal with people around you, letting each person read a section at a time to swap out later. Needless to say, e-readers fall woefully short in encouraging such friendly bartering.

On a related note, I recall how the public library that I used to frequent in my childhood would stitch up all the sheets into a single bundle, probably to prevent the chaos of loose sheets lying around helter-skelter. I am not sure whether libraries still follow this practice.

Doctors have relentlessly called attention to the damage that continual usage of e-readers can cause – which goes beyond just sleep deprivation and physical strain. It needs no reiteration that reading printed matter on plain old paper is much more benign.

Above all, be it a newspaper or a book, the fondness for printed paper is visceral. There is something magical about them. The sense of possession that holding a newspaper in one's hand grants is uplifting. The sheer physicality of a book makes its contents seem more real. The only time I tried reading a book on an e-reader made the contents seem illusory to me. The book left no imprint on my brain.

Ah, there is also the guilty sensorial pleasure. The redolence of the morning newspaper or a new book is too inviting to pass up. I cannot help sniffing to savour the freshness, nay, fragrance. With apologies to Shakespeare, may I say, even the perfumes of Arabia pale in comparison?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Electoral roll scrutiny should be transparent, fair

Apropos 'Inclusion, not deletion, must be SIR mantra' (May 18), while the Election Commission's authority to periodically rectify electoral rolls is undisputed, questions arise when it does so arbitrarily, hurriedly, unfairly, and in an obviously biased manner. Despite its goal of not leaving behind any eligible voter, the recent document-heavy SIR exercises in Bihar and West Bengal demonstrated quite the opposite. There is a strong likelihood that West Bengal's electoral outcome was significantly impacted by the exclusion of lakhs of existing voters, with over 27 lakh petitions against logical discrepancy-based exclusions still pending before newly formed tribunals. The EC's actions, like a judicial decision, must not only be just and fair to all but also be perceived as such. It is worth noting that the technique used for the SIR in Assam, a BJP-ruled state, materially differed from that used in the opposition-ruled West Bengal. How transparently and objectively it is carried out in Congress-ruled Karnataka will be monitored closely.
Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Fuel shocks and inflation

I refer to the editorial 'In fuel hike, politics meets economics' (May 18). The recent Rs 3 per litre hike in petrol and diesel prices marks a delicate balancing act for the economy. Driven by prolonged geopolitical conflicts in West Asia and the closure of vital shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, global crude prices have surged past $100 a barrel. This has forced domestic oil marketing companies to finally pass on costs after absorbing massive daily losses. While this step partially cushions State-run refiners, it triggers a cascade of 'imported inflation'. Costlier fuel directly drives up wholesale and retail prices of everyday goods. This crisis exposes the perils of a heavy reliance on energy imports. Navigating this economic storm demands a dual approach: managing immediate inflationary pressures while aggressively accelerating the transition towards energy self-reliance and alternative fuels.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

A global perspective

The rise in prices of petrol and diesel is no doubt inevitable and intended to absorb the impact of the global crude oil prices, which were brought about by the war in West Asia. Before any indiscreet political hue and cry over the rise in fuel prices, one must understand that globally, crude prices have hovered above Rs 9,624 per barrel (as on May 18). In rupee terms, the global increase works out to about Rs 60.54 per litre. In comparison, the recent hike is only Rs 3.125 per litre. However, India must focus on energy security and reducing its import dependency.
Rajiv Kumar Sinha, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

If someone wants to offer *namaz*, they should do it in shifts. We won't stop. But not on roads... If there is no space even in your homes, then control your population.

Yogi Adityanath, UP CM

More dangerous than guns or bombs are hatred, lack of compassion, and lack of respect for the rights of others.
Dalai Lama

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Arrests cannot be spectacles of shame

Public display of arrests on social media erodes due process, promoting a distorted sense of justice

SHRUTI JAIN

When Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad, in the landmark ruling of *Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar* (2014), wrote that, "The police officer before arrest must put a question to himself: why arrest? Is it really required? What purpose will it serve? What object will it achieve? And only after these questions are addressed, the power of arrest needs to be exercised," he could never have imagined that more than a decade later, police agencies across jurisdictions would celebrate arrests and humiliate the accused persons by posting their reels and photographs on social media.

Last month, Nashik Police made reels of accused persons, forcing them to chant slogans glorifying the district's law enforcement. Recently, the Rajasthan High Court came down heavily on the police for posting photographs of arrestees on social media.

This attitude of the police stems from their entitled position within the criminal justice system, where they function as an extended arm of the State, upon whom lies the primary responsibility of prosecution and punishment. The police machinery often fails to realise that it is merely the first-line service provider entrusted with maintaining law and order, and that arrest and investigation only set the ground for a trial. They are neither a conclusive determination of guilt nor a dispensation of justice.

Both police and prosecuting agencies are often evaluated based on the number of arrests and convictions because the State's interest lies in demonstrating punishment to create deterrence in the societal conscience, without realising that basic constitutional and human rights are left far behind in this unmindful pursuit.

The first casualty here is the presumption of innocence, a foundational principle of criminal jurisprudence. In India, this principle is protected through Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution, which provide strong safeguards against arbitrary arrest, thereby turning arrest into a constitutional event rather than a mere mechanical police act.

However, when an accused person, immediately after arrest, is projected as a badge of honour for the police agency, this presumption collapses altogether. This becomes even more problematic in an adversarial criminal justice system like ours, where the police work exclusively for the prosecution and are under no obligation to search for evidence favourable to the accused.

In *Imran Pratapgadhi v. State of Gujarat* (2025), the Supreme Court stated that police officers ought to be sensitised about their constitutional duties and observed that if they are not adequately aware, the State must ensure that they are.

Procedures on paper

The law governing arrests specifies that police discretion, while making arrests in cognisable offences punishable with imprisonment of up to seven years, is not absolute. This is because the arrest curtails the liberty of an accused person who has not been proven guilty. However, the compulsory registration of FIRs in cognisable cases is often misused by the police, who treat such provisions as a licence to arrest. Through its judgment in *Arnesh Kumar*, the Court drew a clear distinction between the registration of an FIR and arrest, and clarified that the two must not be equated. The objective was to curb police high-handedness.

Through *Lalita Kumari v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (2014), the Court added another layer of protection to FIR registration by introducing the mechanism of a limited preliminary inquiry before the registration of an FIR, to weed out *mala fide* cases. A broader form of preliminary inquiry has now found statutory recognition under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

The second casualty is the compromise of the right of the accused to a fair trial. When accused persons are displayed on social media after arrest, often without even covering their faces, the Test Identification Parade (TIP), meant to corroborate a witness's testimony during trial, becomes virtually meaningless.

Where a complainant lodges an FIR against a person with whom they were previously unacquainted, it becomes the duty of the police, after making an arrest, to conduct a TIP before a Magistrate so that the complainant or victim can identify whether the arrestee is the one seen at the scene of the crime. This exercise assures the investigating agency that the probe is proceeding in the correct direction.

Time and again, the courts have emphasised liberty's primacy over arrest and the need for caution in exercising the power to arrest. Yet, we witness the celebration of arrests. Constitutional limitations within the criminal justice process exist to regulate State power even while pursuing truth and justice. The State, being the sole prosecuting authority, cannot afford to remain oblivious to the rights of the accused.

(The writer is a journalist currently pursuing LLM at the National Law University, Delhi)

What it takes to go from digital Bharat to divine Bharat

M VENKATRAMAN

India's journey over the last few decades has been extraordinary. A nation once associated with poverty and food scarcity has transformed into a global economic force, a technological innovator, and the world's largest democracy. Today, Bharat stands confident on the global stage with immense opportunities for growth, innovation, and leadership.

Our achievements in digital infrastructure have been remarkable. From digital payments to direct benefit transfers, technology has improved governance, transparency, and financial inclusion. The world increasingly recognises India as a pioneer in digital public systems. But every phase of material progress raises a deeper civilisational question: what comes next?

Recently, the seer of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, Vijayendra Saraswathi, spoke about the journey from 'digital India' to 'divine India'. This idea deserves serious reflection.

Divinity, in this context, is not limited to rituals or religion. A divine society is one where citizens live without fear, justice is accessible, governance is fair, and ethical conduct becomes a way of life. It is a society rooted in Dharma — righteous living and collective responsibility.

For such a transformation, India must strengthen the foundations of democracy.

India's democratic framework rests on four pillars—the legislature, the executive, the judiciary, and the free press. While strong in principle, these institutions often suffer from corruption, inefficiency, political interference, and erosion of public trust.

The bureaucratic system, for instance, still carries colonial-era characteristics. Designed originally to administer control rather than empower citizens, it often creates distance between administrators and the public. Governance must shift from a 'ruler mindset' to a 'service mindset'.

Civil servants should function as partners in development, closely connected to grassroots realities. One reform worth debating is the creation of an independent national executive commission, similar in autonomy to the Election Commission, to oversee appointments, transfers, and accountability of senior bureaucrats. Such a structure could reduce political interference while preserving democratic accountability.

Technology must also reduce discretionary power in administration. Transparent digital systems can significantly curb corruption and improve efficiency.

The judiciary remains the moral backbone of democracy, yet delays in justice continue to burden ordinary citizens. Cases often drag on for years, making justice inaccessible to many.

India requires structural judicial reforms. Establishing regional Supreme Courts in the North, South, East, and West could reduce case burden and improve accessibility. Simultaneously, accountability mechanisms should exist to address clear cases of miscarriage of justice without compromising judicial independence.

Justice delayed weakens public faith in institutions. Speed, fairness, and transparency must become central to judicial functioning.

India's greatest strength is its youth population. Every year millions enter the workforce with aspirations for meaningful employment. If opportunities do not match expectations, frustration and social instability can grow.

Agriculture and rural industries can become major engines of employment. Food processing, agro-based industries, storage infrastructure, and export-oriented enterprises can create sustainable jobs while strengthening local economies.

Economic growth must also remain environmentally responsible. Industries such as steel and coal are highly water-intensive. India must encourage adoption of advanced, water-efficient technologies and incentivise sustainable industrial practices to protect ecological balance.

India's diversity of faiths is one of its greatest strengths. Governance should not control religion but ensure that religious practices do not disturb social harmony or constitutional order.

Places of worship should function autonomously under transparent and accountable systems. A national framework ensuring financial transparency and adherence to constitutional principles can help maintain both religious freedom and social stability.

At a deeper level, all religions converge on common values — ethical living, honesty, compassion, and service to others. This shared moral foundation can become the unifying force behind Divine Bharat.

The transformation of a nation begins not merely in institutions but within individuals and families. When honesty, discipline, and moral responsibility become part of everyday life, society naturally becomes stronger and more harmonious. From such a society, honest leadership inevitably emerges, and honest leaders guide nations toward lasting progress.

India's civilisational values have always emphasised *dharma*, selflessness, and collective well-being. If every family consciously nurtures these values in the next generation, the journey from Digital Bharat to Divine Bharat will not remain an aspiration – it will become a lived reality.

Another challenge facing democracy is conflict between institutions themselves. At times, friction between the executive, judiciary, and legislature creates paralysis and delays implementation of important decisions.

To address this, India could explore the idea of state and central 'Supreme Democratic Commissions' consisting of representatives from all democratic pillars along with eminent public figures and neutral observers. Their role would be to mediate institutional conflicts and preserve constitutional balance.

Such bodies would not replace democratic institutions but strengthen coordination between them. The President of India, acting within the constitutional framework, could serve as the final authority, guided by the recommendations of these commissions. No institutional reform alone can create a great nation. Laws can regulate conduct, but they cannot create character.

The journey from 'digital Bharat' to 'divine Bharat' is, therefore, not merely technological or political — it is moral, cultural, and civilisational. Digital systems provide efficiency; *dharma* provides direction.

(The writer is an Alexander von Humboldt fellow and former deputy director of DRDO)

The humanitarian relief system, decimated by cuts, faces a grave challenge as the West Asia war causes soaring costs for food, fuel and fertiliser

PETER S GOODMAN

A child is measured to assess the extent of malnutrition inside a nutrition centre in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. NYT

Catastrophe emerging in the world's most vulnerable places

For nine days, they trudged across the parched soil of southern Somalia, taking turns carrying their three-year-old daughter on their shoulders. Abdullahi Abdi Abdirahman, his wife and their seven children sought escape from a landscape drained of life.

Another drought had killed their goats and sheep, turning their life savings to dust. So they pressed on for 140 miles towards Dollow, a dusty outpost on the Ethiopian border. They were drawn by the same things that had already attracted more than 100,000 other people: International relief organisations were clustered there, offering food, water and healthcare.

Yet when they arrived in late January at a camp on the fringes of town, they were horrified to learn that aid groups had abandoned the area. President Donald Trump had dismantled the US Agency for International Development, or USAID, eliminating Somalia's primary source of assistance. From London to Berlin, governments had reduced funding for humanitarian aid. Relief organisations had been forced to choose where to focus their remaining money.

Dollow had not made the cut. Inside the camps, thousands of tents remained, but aid was disappearing. Families were losing cash grants for food. Health clinics were bereft of medicines and staff.

The following month, another shock unfolded, as the United States and Israel unleashed war on Iran. The closing of the Strait of Hormuz halted the shipment of oil, fertiliser and other critical commodities from the Persian Gulf. The cost of moving cargo soared. In Somalia, which depends on imports for 70% of its food, staple goods like rice and wheat flour doubled in price.

"Milk and meat are just a dream for us," said Abdi, 47. His family was subsisting on a daily meal of sorghum porridge and wild grasses plucked from nearby riverbanks.

"The children are hungry," he said. "It hurts."

As the conflict in West Asia grinds into its third month, catastrophe is unfolding across the world's poorest, least stable countries. If hostilities continue beyond June, those confronting acute hunger will swell beyond 363 million people worldwide, an increase of 45 million compared with before the war, the World Food Program warned.

The danger is mounting absent the usual degree of international mobilisation.

Four years ago, when Russia began its war on Ukraine, the global supply of fertilisers and grains was disrupted, prompting fears of hunger from sub-Saharan Africa to South Asia. But the pain was limited by $43 billion in humanitarian assistance marshalled by governments and multilateral institutions, according to data compiled by the United Nations. That campaign, which included emergency food aid, water and medical care, was led by $17 billion from the United States.

Last year, overall humanitarian funding dropped to $28 billion, and the United States contributed only $4 billion. Cuts are continuing.

"The system has been eviscerated," said Kate Phillips-Barrasso, who heads global advocacy at Mercy Corps, an American aid group that runs relief and development programmes around the world. The organisation led journalists from *The New York Times* on a reporting trip in Somalia.

"This is the era of indifference," she said.

Somalia is rife with calamity. In recent decades, the country has suffered civil war, famine, and the unpredictable attacks of al-Shabab, a militant Islamist group affiliated with al-Qaida.

Drought ravaged the most recent harvest. Some 6.5 million people — roughly one third of the population — were suffering hunger at levels deemed an emergency, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization warned in February. That included more than 1.8 million children under five facing acute malnutrition.

Those numbers have almost certainly increased given the war. Yet the World Food Program, the largest source of aid in Somalia, has only enough funding to support 300,000 people a month through July, a fraction of the nearly two million people a month it was reaching in early 2025. Humanitarian relief organisations now contemplate a surreal hierarchy of suffering.

"There are different categories of starvation," said Hameed Nuru, the World Food Program's Somalia director. "We are only able to reach those who are really on the verge of, if you don't give them something now, they will not be there tomorrow." In some areas, children are still getting food, but not pregnant mothers. "Literally, it's who dies first," he said, "and who dies next."

Somalia is dependent on imports for oil, most of it from the United Arab Emirates. As Iran launched retaliatory strikes on production facilities in the Persian Gulf, and as transport through the strait effectively ceased, the price of gasoline and diesel more than doubled.

Some people in the camps sell fruits and vegetables that they buy in markets in town. The fares for transporting their wares by motorised rickshaw have more than doubled. They were passing on the extra costs to their customers. Trucking companies doubled and tripled prices for bringing sacks of corn over the border from Ethiopia. The cost of hauling rice shipped into Somalia's ports rose by similar margins.

At a fish market in Mogadishu, the city of more than three million that is Somalia's capital, Fatumo Abdi Noor, 45, tended to her stall as men used machetes to hack tuna and king fish into steaks. She had nearly doubled her prices. Owners of fishing boats could no longer afford to venture out to the deeper waters of the Indian Ocean. They were settling for smaller fish closer to shore, reducing the catch.

Faced with higher prices for fish at the market, customers were buying smaller quantities. Noor's sales were down by half.

Somalia also depends on the Persian Gulf for about one-third of its fertilisers. With stocks marooned on the wrong side of the Strait of Hormuz, farmers were contending with higher costs.

At a 10-acre cooperative farm in Dollow, a tractor tilled the ground in preparation for the planting of onions. The diesel that powered the machine had more than doubled in price. A 30-kg bag of nitrogen fertiliser had jumped to $35 from $20.

The cooperative planned to recoup its costs by demanding more for its harvest.

As he sat beneath the shade of a mango tree, its branches sloping toward the river dividing Somalia from Ethiopia, Adan Bare Ali, deputy mayor of Dollow, said his community was suffering from troubles that had been concocted far away. The drought was worsened by climate change — primarily the result of industrial polluters in larger, more powerful nations. The war was the handiwork of foreign actors.

"The situation has become unbearable," he said. "The American regime is led by a person who really doesn't care about anything happening outside his gates. The Americans are not honouring their commitment to the world."

Last year, the US slashed humanitarian assistance to Somalia to $70 million from $467 million in 2024. Over the first four months of this year, less than $3 million came from American government donors — only 2% of all relief for Somalia. Britain, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Canada and Qatar each contribute considerably more.

Still, many European governments have also retreated, spurred by Trump's insistence that they spend more on defence rather than relying on American protection.

Relief organisations now reckon with a process they describe as "hyper-prioritisation." What aid remains has been concentrated on the neediest 21 of Somalia's 90 districts. This was the situation before the US and Israel started a war on Iran.

The New York Times

To err is human...

NEELATPHAL CHANDA

Recently, a professor emphasised that in the age of generative AI, proficiency in English, particularly a strong command of writing and articulation, may become more significant than coding itself. These observations highlighted how strong language skills are increasingly central to navigating the evolving relationship between AI, knowledge production and the marginalisation of human voices. This shift raises major concerns, as every individual begins producing highly polished and perfectly articulated expressions. This will lead to technological dependence and erosion of original ideas and also subtracts imperfections that make human writing soulful.

This anxiety, which we are witnessing currently, is not new. In the work of Roald Dahl's *The Great Automatic Grammatizator* (1953), Dahl imagines a machine capable of producing commercially successful literature automatically, eventually threatening the role of human writers. What appeared to be fictional and satirical in the 1950s looks perfectly relevant in the age of Gen-AI. Dahl's version has paved the way for cultural and creative uproar, where creativity in the form of organic writing becomes an industrialised entity, questioning authorship, originality, and the absence of human expression.

But beneath this technological advancement lies a deeper cultural question: what happens to the writing when perfection becomes automated? Science fiction writer Ted Chiang, in a now widely cited 2023 essay published in The New Yorker, equated ChatGPT to a blurry JPEG, which captures information in a general picture format while losing minute details. Generative content faces a major challenge: missing the original, raw voices and the struggle. The writing through the edges of the generative cushioning sounds convincing and polished, while the soul of the human experience begins to vanish.

Authenticity and originality have been cornerstones of debate in the history of media and cultural thought. With the advancement of the printing press, the democratisation of written words gained momentum, and scholars became anxious about losing the uniqueness of ideas. The mass production of cultural artefact, critics complained, erodes unreproducible performance. This concern resonates with the ideas of German philosophers Theodor W Adorno and Max Horkheimer, who discussed the rise of the 'culture industry'. They argued that the modern media industry tends to standardise culture, reflecting a similar pattern beneath the surface. Noted scholar Walter Benjamin described this loss of originality as the disappearance of "aura". In each case, a new technological whirlwind in the relationship between the creator and the creation undergoes a mix of adaptations. French philosopher Jean Baudrillard conceptualised the idea of the "simulacrum", a copy that no longer refers to any original. The idea is closely associated with AI writing an obituary, a grief column, or emotionally textured writing; it produces text that resembles human expression while divorcing it from human experience.

Human language has undergone a shift in the era of generative AI; it has not remained a medium for negotiating meaning but has become an input for rendering precise results. The more precisely you command, the more specific the output will be. The relationship with words is limited within the dominant frames of "prompt", "output", "query", and "token"; these are engineering vocabularies, not human expression. This transformation is gradually changing the way people understand and use language. "Prompt effectively", rather than writing clearly, has become the new craze among students and professionals. The precision of instruction is turning us into better operators, overshadowing the art of thoughtful human articulation and voice. The resistance of thoughtful articulation confines human organic creative spaces within the binary of patterns and machine neural networks. Generative writing produces flawless expression, which dilutes uncertainty and experimentation. An individual who relies on AI to generate a seamless text in the form of an essay or report has not only lost organic effort but has also ignored a journey of thoughtful intellectual engagement, relying heavily on this form of surrogate memory.

Within the ambit of journalism, fieldwork offers a distinctive role in witnessing firsthand experience; this process empowers the journalist to offer a civic language. AI-generated content in modern-day journalistic practices has severed the thread by diluting human experiences. Public discourse and journalism are intertwined; they are scaffolded on the fundamental principle of argument, which has a real human voice, and generative content weakens accountability to genuine convictions. So, if you are committing mistakes while writing, in this age of Gen AI, don't shy away; rather, go on a deep dive into thoughtful engagement that will keep you soulful and humble.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Department of Media Studies, Christ University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Welfare of BCs: Panel for new directorate

Bangalore, May 18
The voluminous report of the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission headed by Mr. L. G. Havanur, which was presented to the State Assembly today, has recommended a liberal grant of scholarships and other educational concessions to students belonging to three categories of Backward Classes whose annual income is less than Rs. 6,000. It had also recommended that a separate directorate should be set up to ensure effective implementation of the measures intended for the welfare of Backward Classes.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Buddhadev ministry sworn in

Kolkata, May 18
A 48-member, two-tier Left Front ministry headed by CPM Politburo member Buddhadev Bhattacharya today assumed office for the sixth term in a row in West Bengal today with the chief minister vowing to regain investor confidence. Governor Viren J Shah administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Bhattacharya and his colleagues in the state cabinet at a simple yet sombre function at the sprawling lawns of the Raj Bhavan. Barring a few, all the ministers including the chief minister took the oath in Bengali.

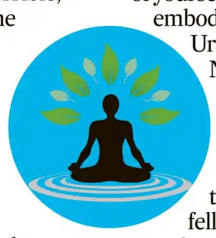
OASIS | SURYAKUMARI DENNISON

The hallmark of humility is service, not servility

David Copperfield, the well-known novel by Charles Dickens, features a villainous character called Uriah Heep. Cadaverous in appearance, he keeps wringing his cold clammy hands, and frequently refers to himself as "'umble" (humble). Uriah's obsequiousness masks his greed and ambition. "The 'umblest person going" (as he styles himself) is scheming to defraud his employer.

While Uriah Heep is too repulsive to be realistic, varied versions of his brand of humility exist outside the realm of fiction. 'Fishing for compliments' (an idiom that is over 270 years old) expressively describes how people who yearn for praise pretend that they do not deserve it.

Thus, if someone who is commended for a culinary triumph says, "Oh no! I'm afraid it tastes terrible," he or she obviously means the exact opposite, and expects a continuing chorus of congratulations. On the other hand, a response such as "I'm so glad it turned out well" combines modesty and honesty. Feigning indifference to appreciation by belittling one's abilities and achievements is as bad as extolling them. Disparaging oneself, in the hope of being contradicted, is just another form of self-glorification.



In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren defines humility as "not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." Those who actually embody humility will not (unlike Uriah) lay claim to that virtue. Nor will they insincerely plead incompetence to avoid inconvenient involvement in stressful situations. Genuinely humble individuals seek to improve the lives of their fellow human beings by relieving and redressing problems.

A familiar anecdote about the first president of the United States exemplifies this truth. During the American Revolutionary War, George Washington was in charge of the Continental Army that was in revolt against Great Britain. One day, he came across some soldiers struggling to move a heavy wooden beam. A supervisor stood nearby, offering advice but not assistance. "Why don't you help them?" asked Washington.

"I'm a corporal; I give orders," replied the man haughtily, not recognising his General who was not in uniform.

Dismounting from his horse, Washington joined the soldiers, and they completed the task. "Next time you have a job," he told the corporal, "send for your Commander-in-Chief."

The hallmark of humility is service, not servility.

India steps up Ebola surveillance over WHO emergency declaration

International travel from affected regions being monitored; no reported case of virus in country

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Following the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, the Union Health Ministry on Monday initiated public health measures as a matter of abundant precaution while officials keep a close watch on the evolving situation in Africa.

"While there is no reported case of Ebola in India and the current risk to the country remains minimal, surveillance and preparedness measures are being strengthened at points of entry and within the public health system as a matter of abundant caution," sources said here.

The sources said the ministry was closely monitoring the recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease caused by the Bundibugyo strain in parts of Congo and Uganda, following the World Health Organization's declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

Senior health ministry officials, including scientists from the National Centre for Disease Control, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, Indian Council of Medical Research and other divisions, reviewed the evolving situation and initiated precautionary public health measures.

Public health emergency

The WHO on Sunday declared a public health emergency of international concern over the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that has spread to Uganda. According to reports from Congo, the outbreak is suspected to have killed a few hundred people, with eight cases confirmed by laboratory testing.

Sources said key preparedness measures include reviewing the SOPs for screening, surveillance, quarantine and case management and identifying isolation and quarantine facilities at major airports and ports.

The ICMR's National Institute of Virology, Pune, has been designated as the nodal laboratory for testing, and additional laboratories are being on-boarded in phases. International travel from the affected regions is also being monitored.

The Ebola outbreaks happen ahead of the fourth India-Africa Forum summit, scheduled to be held in Delhi between May 28 and 31, followed by the International Big Cat Alliance summit on June 1. Many African nations, including Congo and Uganda, are likely to participate in the two summits.

Plea for panel on minimum wages for priests rejected

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking the setting up of a judicial commission or an expert committee to review the wages and other benefits given to priests, 'sevadars' and temple staff in state-controlled temples.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said those aggrieved could directly approach the court, adding that it was not inclined to entertain the plea under Article 32 of the Constitution.

"Those who are aggrieved will take up their own cause," the bench told petitioner advocate Ashwini Upadhyay.

He referred to a 2006 Allahabad High Court judgment which stated that, similar to waqf institutions, minimum living wages should be ensured so that priests and sevadars can lead a dignified life.

Upadhyay also cited a Madras High Court judgment related to the issue raised in the Public Interest Litigation.

"It was a personal cause in the Madras High Court as well as the Allahabad High Court," the bench said.

Upadhyay argued that the issue had nationwide implications. He also said that not a single mosque or church was under government control.

"We have said no seven times. Not anymore," the bench said. The bench also asked Upadhyay not to get into the affairs of priests.

SC grants bail to man accused of impersonating PM's aide

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Mohammad Kashif, who was arrested in a money laundering case for allegedly posing as a close aide of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers to extort money.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh set aside the Allahabad High Court's February 5 order rejecting his bail plea.

Kashif has been in custody for nearly three years.

The apex court granted him bail on the condition that he would not use the names of high constitutional functionaries.

The bench also directed him to fully cooperate with the trial, warning that any failure to do so would allow the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to seek cancellation of his bail.

The ED registered a case against Kashif on April 19, 2023, based on a police complaint alleging forgery and cheating filed at the Gautam Budh Nagar police station in Uttar Pradesh.

The agency alleged that Kashif extorted money from people by claiming he could get their work done in government departments through his supposed influence with the Prime Minister and Union ministers.

He reportedly used morphed and edited photographs with top leaders on his Facebook and Instagram accounts to build credibility and extract financial benefits. Investigations also revealed that he allegedly secured government contracts in Rajasthan and other departments by leveraging these false claims of proximity to power.

Kashif was intercepted by the Noida police while travelling in a Mercedes car along with three mobile phones. Examination of his social media accounts revealed photographs with the Prime Minister and Union ministers, along with forged documents.

Top court stays tree felling around Hyderabad's eco-sensitive zone

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the felling of trees in the eco-sensitive zone around Kasu Brahmananda Reddy (KBR) National Park in Hyderabad and issued notice on a petition challenging the move to cut trees for road development.

A bench directed that there shall be no tree felling in the 25 to 35-metre eco-sensitive zone around the park.

The interim order was passed on a special leave petition filed by Kaajal Maheshwari, who had challenged the Telangana High Court's refusal to grant interim relief in a pending public interest litigation.

The petitioner contended that the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around KBR National Park — an ecologically sensitive urban forest and one of Hyderabad's key green lungs — was arbitrarily reduced from the originally proposed 25 to 35 metres to a width varying between just 3 metres and 29.8 metres.

This drastic dilution, it was argued, defeats the very purpose of an ESZ, which is meant to act as a "shock absorber" for the protected area. KBR National Park was notified under Section 35 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The petition claimed the initial proposal between 2012 and 2015 was to have a 25-35 metre eco-sensitive buffer, including the green buffer developed by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

However, this was allegedly diluted at the instance of the State government to facilitate infrastructure projects, particularly the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP).

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the final notification on October 27, 2020, fixing the narrow ESZ.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I'LL BE BACK AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONIES!
HUH? I THOUGHT THE OLYMPICS DIDN'T START UNTIL LATER TONIGHT
NOBODY DOES OPENING CEREMONIES LIKE LOU!
O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES...
PLEASE RISE

Hagar The Horrible

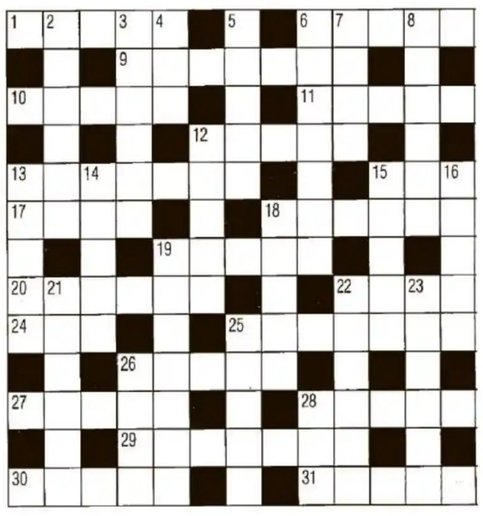
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

THIS IS MY CHRISTMAS STORY... "SANTA AND HIS RAIN GEAR"
"WHEN SANTA LEFT THE NORTH POLE THAT EVENING, A GENTLE MIST WAS FALLING"
"IN HIS YELLOW SLICKER AND BIG RUBBER BOOTS, HE SET OUT ON HIS ANNUAL JOURNEY"
"IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE, AND SOON CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD WOULD BE HEARING THE SOUND OF SANTA AND HIS RAIN GEAR"

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12419



ACROSS
1 Rigid (5)
6 Rugby formation (5)
9 Exact copy (7)
10 Wide (5)
11 Stay clear of (5)
12 Hackneyed (5)
13 Gruesome (7)
15 Encountered (3)
17 Plant type (4)
18 Reach a decision (6)
19 Senior (5)
20 Oily (6)
22 Curved roof (4)
24 Hearing organ (3)
25 Football official (7)
26 Light beer (5)
27 Soak in liquid (5)
28 Act of being born (5)
29 Grave, solemn (7)
30 Financial liabilities (5)
31 Cut off physically (5)

DOWN
2 Hard deposit on teeth (6)
3 Noisy quarrel (6)
4 Gave food to (3)
5 Distress signal (5)
6 Disperse (7)
7 Underground hollow (4)
8 Unified (6)
12 Indeed, really (5)
13 Gnat-like insect (5)
14 Alcoholic drink (5)
15 Lesser (5)
16 Native American tent (5)
18 Discourage (5)
19 Gets away (7)
21 Baby's toy (6)
22 Failure, termination (6)
23 Courage, spirit (6)
25 Ancient artefact (5)
26 For fear that (4)
28 Clippie's vehicle (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Cast down with a single blow (5)
6 Many a German has a maxim (5)
9 Brown character? Just! (7)
10 It's vegetable, but may have fur on it (5)
11 A nasty smear can spoil the paper (5)
12 Roman said to be dead (5)
13 Arrested, having stolen (7)
15 House at Beach head, a warm place (3)
17 Is she able to heal? (4)
18 An opening word (6)
19 Those which some of the wise can be sat on (5)
20 Make something out of nothing (6)
22 Singer eager to make a comeback? (4)
24 Cocktail I had as a youngster (3)
25 Train up to be a moralist (7)
26 A nosy informer (5)
27 He aims for the heart (5)
28 Scared of gales? (5)
29 Rude tot badly educated (7)
30 A natural restorative (5)
31 The violin part, is seems, is bell-like (5)

DOWN
2 A success, despite being below par (6)
3 Change, and be impatient to be on the way (6)
4 A Whitehall success? (3)
5 Be a beggar in court? (5)
6 Credulous servicemen? (7)
7 Sign on order two ways (4)
8 Boy repeatedly beaten (3-3)
12 Morning reception on the Embankment? (5)
13 The courage to keep harping? (5)
14 Called the wrong man ìEdî (5)
15 That of regular riding? (5)
16 Originated, for instance, during Prohibition (5)
18 Walk confidently, showing unusual trust (5)
19 The sort of comedy to bear inspection (5,2)
21 Formal ìabout turnî in a flawed trial (6)
22 It's great in the Rocky Mountains! (6)
23 Criminal figure at London museum (6)
25 Don, let's assume (3,2)
26 Location of ì28 Downî? (4)
28 We finish the job with a trap (computerised?) (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12418

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Twist 8, Cut up 10, Coach 11, Roc 12, De-MO-n 13, Works-op. 15, T-I'm-es 18, Log 19, Accede 21, Selfish 22, Imps 23, Moos 24, Asp-IR-in 26, (on the) Hearth 29, Run 31, T-a-rot 32, De-bat-ed 34, Cloud 35, Red 36, Stoke 37, Re-ady 38, Yeast.
DOWN: 1, Huron 2, Buck-Les 4, Wee-p 5, Scotch 6, To-nic 7, ACTed 9, Tor 12, Dogfish 14, Sol 16, Me-Lon 17, Sense 19, Aspir-Ed 20, Night 21, Spear 23, Minaret 24, A-TT-Lee 25, Rub 27, Earth 28, Rocky 30, Teddy 32, Duds 33, Tea.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Sects 8, Riser 10, Epoch 11, Tim 12, Piano 13, Laconic 15, Notes 18, Tar 19, Minute 21, Pegasus 22, Airs 23, Reek 24, Measles 26, Elopes 29, Hag 31, Siren 32, Royalty 34, Rabat 35, Too 36, Attic 37, Atone 38, Level.
DOWN: 1, Vital 2, Demotes 4, Epic 5, Tennis 6, Spoon 7, Octet 9, Sic 12, Pirates 14, Nag 16, Tunes 17, Seeks 19, Mug shot 20, Saves 21, Prior 23, Regatta 24, Menace 25, Lay 27, Lifts 28, Peril 30, Stone 32, Race 33, Loo.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6909 ◆

	4	8		9		1		3
9		1	3				6	
6			4					2
7	8				5	6		
		5	9				7	8
5					3			6
	2				9	3		5
3		7		6		8	4	

easy

SOLUTION TO 6908

4	1	5	7	6	8	3	2	9
6	9	2	3	1	4	5	7	8
8	7	3	9	5	2	4	6	1
1	5	7	2	4	6	9	8	3
2	6	9	8	3	5	7	1	4
3	8	4	1	9	7	6	5	2
7	3	6	4	8	1	2	9	5
5	4	1	6	2	9	8	3	7
9	2	8	5	7	3	1	4	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1	U1	S1	N1	I1	L1	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
S1	S1	D2	T1	T1	E1	E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
A1	E1	I1	A1	N1	C3	M3	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
R1	D2	P3	A1	O1	C3	I1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 205-215
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	A1	N1	D2	M3	A1	N1	RACK 1 =	66
W4	E1	D2	D2	E1	D2		RACK 2 =	12
B3	A1	W4	D2	I1	E1	R1	RACK 3 =	76
P3	E1	R1	C3	H4	E1	R1	RACK 4 =	64

PAR SCORE 140-150 JUDD'S TOTAL 218

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAAEB

NRTDE

SODETM

SRTSES

Where would we be without these? Do you see where we need to go?
Yes. Mine has it mapped out.
WITH PHONES THAT HAVE GPS MAPS, EVEN PEOPLE FROM OUT OF TOWN CAN BE ---
11/6

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SAUNA WHISK GAMBIT DEPICT
Answer: When they offered her discounted advertising on the new billboard, she said — SIGN ME UP

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HITORI-3363

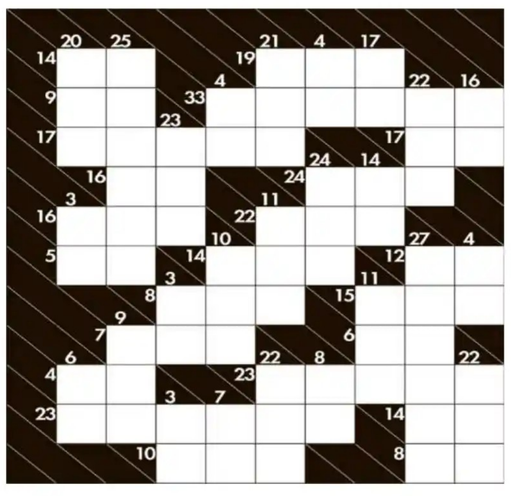
8	5	1	7	7	2	6	7
6	7	6	3	5	6	7	1
6	4	2	7	3	1	7	5
7	6	3	2	5	5	8	4
3	7	7	5	4	1	6	2
6	8	6	1	6	7	2	7
2	3	5	4	7	8	7	6
4	7	6	7	1	7	3	6

SOLUTION TO 3362

5	■	7	8	2	■	6	4
4	7	6	■	8	1	3	■
7	■	1	4	■	3	■	5
■	2	3	■	6	■	5	1
2	4	■	5	3	6	1	■
1	8	2	■	5	■	4	7
■	5	■	1	4	7	■	6
8	6	4	7	■	5	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3363



SOLUTION TO 3362

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3920

■						2		■
	■			9			■	
		■			3	1	4	
			■		■	8		
1		3	4	■	9			2
			2		1			
		■				■		
	■				8	7	■	3
5		2		4			6	■

SOLUTION TO 3919

9	4	3	2	7	8	5	1	6
2	6	1	3	5	4	9	8	7
5	8	7	1	9	6	2	4	3
6	3	5	4	8	9	1	7	2
1	2	8	6	3	7	4	9	5
4	7	9	5	1	2	3	6	8
3	5	4	7	6	1	8	2	9
8	1	6	9	2	3	7	5	4
7	9	2	8	4	5	6	3	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan.

US' ire at Imran's Russia visit played a role in his ouster: Report

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, PTI: A leaked diplomatic cable suggests that US anger at then Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan over his visit to Russia on February 24, 2022 — the day Moscow launched its attack on Ukraine — played a role in his removal from office, according to an American media outlet.

Drop Site News released what it described as a copy of the classified diplomatic cable, or "cypher", sent by Pakistan's envoy to the US, Asad Majeed Khan, to the Foreign Secretary in Islamabad. The document detailed his meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu on March 7, 2022.

According to the cable, the US official told the Pakistani envoy that Khan's visit to Russia had "created a dent" in bilateral relations and suggested that "all will be forgiven" if the no-confidence motion against the prime minister succeeded.

"I would argue that it has already created a dent in the relationship from our perspective. Let us just wait for a few days to see whether the political situation changes," Lu reportedly told the envoy during the meeting.

The report also suggested that the US was upset with Khan for refusing to allow American forces to use Pakistani bases for operations related to Afghanistan.

Khan was ousted on April 10, 2022, after a no-confidence motion against him was passed in Pakistan's National Assembly.

"Now it has been proved that the cypher was real. It is also true that it stated that if the no-confidence movement against PTI and Imran Khan succeeds, then it will be in Pakistan's interest," PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja told a press conference in Islamabad.

Pak shares revised Iran peace proposal with US

Time running out in US-Iran talks, says Pak official

KARACHI/DUBAI, REUTERS

Peace mediator Pakistan has shared with the United States a revised proposal from Iran to end the war in West Asia, a Pakistani official source said on Monday, warning that the sides "don't have much time" to narrow their differences.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei later confirmed that Tehran's views had been "conveyed to the American side through Pakistan" but gave no details.

A ceasefire is in place after six weeks of war that followed US-Israeli airstrikes on Iran, but talks mediated by Pakistan have stalled. The Pakistani source gave no details of the revised proposal. Asked if it would take time to close gaps, the source said the sides "keep changing their goalposts" and added: "We don't have much time." Washington has urged Tehran to dismantle its nuclear programme and lift its blockade on the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said in a post on Truth Social that "the Clock is Ticking" for Iran, adding that "they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them." He is expected to meet top national security advisers on Tuesday.

People chant slogans during a protest calling on the government to reduce fuel prices amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran, in Lahore, Pakistan, on Monday. REUTERS

Pak troops and jets in Saudi Arabia

Pakistan has deployed 8,000 troops, fighter jets and an air defence system to Saudi Arabia under a mutual defence pact, even as Islamabad serves as the main mediator in the Iran war, Reuters reports. The deployment was confirmed by three security officials and two government sources, all of whom described it an effort to support Saudi Arabia if the kingdom comes under further attack.

Iran announces new body to manage Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN, AFP: Iran's top security body announced on Monday the formation of a new authority to manage the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran has effectively closed and through which it plans to charge ships for passage.

On its official X account, Iran's Supreme National Security Council shared a post from the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), saying it would provide "real-time updates on the #Hormuz_Strait operations and latest developments".

It was not immediately clear what role the new body would play.

However, earlier this month, Iran's English-language broadcaster Press TV said it formed part of a "system to exercise sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz" and that ships passing through the strait were being sent "regulations" via the email address info@pgsa.ir.

Iran has largely blocked shipping through the vital waterway since the outbreak of war with the US and Israel on February 28.

A fragile ceasefire has been in place since April 8.

Iranian control over the strait has unsettled global markets and given Tehran significant leverage, while the United States has imposed its own naval blockade on Iranian ports.

US extends sanction waiver on Russian seaborne oil

PARIS, REUTERS: The US Treasury will extend a sanctions waiver allowing purchases of Russian seaborne oil for another 30 days to aid "energy-vulnerable" countries cut off from West Asian oil supplies, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday.

Bessent said the Treasury was issuing the 30-day general licence after a previous waiver expired on Saturday. The extension will allow temporary access to Russian oil and petroleum products stranded on tankers without violating strict US sanctions on major Russian oil companies.

A source familiar with the decision told Reuters that the second extension was requested by poor and vulnerable countries unable to receive West Asian oil shipments because of the US-Israel war with Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

"This extension will provide additional flexibility, and we will work with these nations to provide specific licences as needed," Bessent said in a post on X. "This general licence will help stabilise the physical crude market and ensure oil reaches the most energy-vulnerable countries."

Bessent added that the measure would help reroute existing supplies to countries most in need, allowing them to compete with China for previously sanctioned oil.

The move marks the second time the Treasury has allowed the sanctions waiver to expire before subsequently extending it.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Members of the Tamil community take part in a protest demanding that Sri Lanka recognise the "genocide" against the community, in Paris on Monday. AFP

Philippines Senate initiates Duterte impeachment trial

▶ The Philippine Senate convened as an impeachment court on Monday to try Vice President Sara Duterte over criminal charges, amid deep political divisions that erupted into an exchange of gunfire near the chamber last week, AP/PTI reports from Manila.

The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to impeach Duterte last Monday over alleged unexplained wealth, misuse of state funds and a public threat to have the president assassinated if she herself were killed as a result of their political disputes. The vice president has denied the charges. Her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, has been detained by the International Criminal Court on charges of crimes against humanity.

Indian killed in US road crash

▶ A 25-year-old Indian student died in a road accident near Chicago in the US that left six others injured, PTI reports from Washington.

The accident took place late on Saturday night on Interstate 65 near the city of Crown Point in Lake County, Indiana. Local media reports identified the student as Navya Gadusu, who was pronounced dead at 12.16 am on Sunday by the Lake County Coroner's Office. According to the coroner's office, Gadusu died from blunt force traumatic injuries sustained in the motor vehicle accident.

People wearing protective suits board the cruise ship MV Hondius, which was affected by a hantavirus outbreak, at the Port of Rotterdam on Monday. REUTERS

35 Baloch militants killed

▶ Pakistani security forces have killed 35 members of Balochistan-based terrorist groups and arrested at least three senior commanders in intelligence-based operations in recent days, according to the provincial government, PTI reports from Islamabad.

The security forces launched an operation on May 13 in the Mangla Zarghoon Gar area, a hilly region on the outskirts of the provincial capital, Quetta, which continued for four days, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind was quoted as saying by Dawn newspaper. "Security forces destroyed several camps and hideouts in the successful operation and arrested three commanders during the operation," Rind said, adding that 35 members of the terrorist groups were killed.

20 Islamic State militants killed

▶ The Nigerian military said on Monday that a new operation conducted with US forces had killed more than 20 Islamic State group militants in northeastern Borno state, AP/PTI reports from Lagos (Nigeria).

The operation in Metele followed the weekend killing of Abu Bakr al-Mainuki, deputy leader of the group's local West African "province", marking a new phase in military cooperation between Nigeria and the US. It was the first successful targeting of a senior militant leader by Nigeria's security forces after more than a decade of insurgency by armed groups, including Boko Haram. The US military said no US or Nigerian personnel were harmed in Sunday's strikes in the community near the borders with Niger and Chad. Nigerian military spokesperson Samaila Uba said efforts "in close coordination" with the US military were ongoing.

Musk loses OpenAI suit as jury says case filed too late

Verdict spares OpenAI from existential legal threat

OAKLAND, AFP

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and Tesla chief Elon Musk. AFP FILE

A federal jury ruled on Monday that Elon Musk waited too long to sue OpenAI and its co-founders, delivering a decisive victory to OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and ending one of Silicon Valley's most closely watched courtroom battles.

The jury in a federal court in Oakland found that Musk's claims against Altman, OpenAI President Greg Brockman, the OpenAI Foundation, and Microsoft were barred by the relevant statutes of limitations, rejecting the billionaire's core arguments.

Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, who had asked the jury to advise her on the matter, accepted and confirmed the verdict. The three-week trial featured a parade of tech leaders taking the stand, with Musk arguing that OpenAI's shift towards a profit-driven model betrayed its mandate. The outcome spares OpenAI from a potentially existential legal threat.

Had Musk prevailed, he sought to force the company to revert to its nonprofit structure—a move that would have derailed its planned IPO and unwound ties with investors including Microsoft, Amazon and SoftBank. Musk accused Altman and Brockman of improperly using a $38 million donation he intended to sustain OpenAI as a research lab dedicated to developing AI for the benefit of humanity.

Taiwan seeks direct Trump-Lai talks

TAIPEI, REUTERS

Taiwan would welcome a direct call between US President Donald Trump and Taiwan President Lai Ching-te, a senior Taiwanese diplomat said on Monday, as Taipei sought to ease concerns over Trump's remarks following his summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Trump and Xi discussed Chinese-claimed Taiwan during their Beijing summit last week, with Xi warning of conflict if the issue was not handled properly.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control.

Trump made a range of remarks about Taiwan, including saying he was undecided on new arms sales, suggesting he might speak to Lai, and stating that the US was "not looking to have somebody say, 'Let's go independent'".

A direct conversation between a sitting US president and Taiwan's leader has not taken place since Washington shifted diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

Taiwan Deputy Foreign Minister Chen Ming-chi said the government was seeking confirmation from the United States about whether Trump wanted to speak to Lai.

"We will use all channels to understand what the US side is actually thinking," Chen told reporters. "We would of course very much welcome it," he said.

"If they are willing to talk with our president, I think that would be a very good opportunity and also a rare opportunity."

China agrees to boost imports of US farm products

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: China has agreed to ramp up imports of US agricultural products such as beef and poultry, purchasing them at an annualised rate of $17 billion per year from 2026 through 2028, the White House said on Sunday.

The announcement came two days after US President Donald Trump returned from a high-stakes summit in Beijing, where he sought to ease the impact on American farmers from the trade war he launched last year.

China will restore market access for US beef and resume imports of poultry, the White House said. The agreements are in addition to China's soybean purchase commitments.

An Israeli naval boat intercepts the Global Sumud Flotilla en route to Gaza, at sea on Monday. REUTERS

Israeli military intercepts Gaza-bound flotilla

ANKARA, AP/PTI: The Israeli military intercepted boats off the coast of Cyprus on Monday as part of the latest flotilla effort by activists attempting to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza.

More than 50 vessels departed from the port of Marmaris in Turkiye last week in what organisers of the Global Sumud Flotilla described as the final leg of their planned journey to Gaza's shores.

The organisation's livestream on Monday showed activists aboard several vessels putting on life jackets and raising their hands before a boat carrying Israeli troops approached. Wearing tactical gear, the troops boarded the vessel and the livestream abruptly ended. Many of the ships are currently off the coast of Cyprus.

Other footage showed Israeli forces on speedboats approaching and instructing the activists to move to the front of the boat. At least 14 boats were intercepted in the first three hours of the operation, according to Global Sumud Flotilla's tracker. The flotilla organisers said they expected the activists to be taken to the port of Ashdod in Israel. An hour before the interception, Israel's Foreign Ministry called on activists to "change course and turn back".

"Once again, a provocation for the sake of provocation: another so-called 'humanitarian aid flotilla' with no humanitarian aid," the Foreign Ministry posted on X.

The Israeli military declined to comment on the ongoing operation. Hamas condemned Israel's interception of the flotilla as a "full-fledged crime of piracy".

Cuba warns US action could spark 'bloodbath'

HAVANA, REUTERS

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said on Monday that any US military action against Cuba would lead to a "bloodbath" with incalculable consequences for regional peace and stability.

"Cuba does not represent a threat," Diaz-Canel said in a post on X. The comments followed an Axios report published on Sunday, citing classified intelligence, which said Cuba had acquired more than 300 military drones and discussed plans to use them to attack the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, US military vessels and Key West, Florida.

Cuba accused the US of fabricating a case to justify possible military intervention.

On the streets of Havana, some residents said they would resist any attack despite the island's deep economic hardship. "I know Cuba is a strong country. Cubans are very brave and they are not going to find us unprepared," said Sandra Roseaux, 57. "If they come, they will have to fight, because Cuba will respond. My country, hungry or however it may be, will respond."

Cuba, a communist adversary of Washington for generations, has come under increasing strain since the US cut off its energy supplies after arresting the president of its then-ally Venezuela in January. In recent weeks, fuel supplies have run out and electricity has often been available for only one or two hours a day.

Tensions between the two countries have risen sharply in recent days. Reuters reported last week that prosecutors planned to indict former Cuban leader Raul Castro over Cuba's 1996 shooting down of two planes operated by a humanitarian group.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said in a social media post that Cuba, "like every nation in the world", has the right to self-defence against external aggression.

Tushar Kumar is UK's youngest Indian-origin mayor

LONDON, PTI: A 23-year-old politician representing a local council in eastern England has created history by becoming the youngest Indian-origin mayor in the UK.

Tushar Kumar took charge as Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood at a ceremony last week. The Labour councillor joined the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council in 2023 and served as Deputy Mayor. "It is an incredible honour to officially become the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood and, at 23 years old," Kumar said.

KEEP THE HERITAGE

Lahore to restore pre-Partition street names

LAHORE, PTI

Pakistan's Punjab government has approved a plan to restore the names of several streets and roads in Lahore in an effort to revive the city's pre-Partition heritage, an official said on Monday.

Several historic streets, alleys and roads in Lahore were renamed over the decades, replacing British-era and Hindu-associated names with those of Islamic, Pakistani or local figures. The decision was taken to revive the cultural identity and heritage of the historic city, the official said.

Historic streets and roads in Lahore that were renamed in the past by successive governments include Queen's Road, Jail Road, Davies Road, Lawrence Road, Empress Road, Krishan Nagar, Santnagar, Dharampura, Brandreth Road, Ram Gali, Tempbell Street, Laxmi Chowk, Jain Mandir Road, Kumharpura, Mohan Lal Bazaar, Sundar Das Road, Bhagwan Pura, Shanti Nagar and Outfall Road.

The government has also proposed the restoration of three cricket grounds and a traditional 'akhara' (wrestling arena) at Minto Park (Greater Iqbal Park).

Cristiano Ronaldo's partner Georgina Rodriguez poses on the red carpet during arrivals for the screening of the film "Fjord" in competition at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France on Monday. REUTERS

Ten strategies for impactful internships

A JOSEPH DORAIRAJ

Internships help both stakeholders — students and potential employers. They enable students to gain firsthand knowledge of the workplace, giving them an idea of the demands of the actual working environment and the professional and life-oriented skill sets required to survive and thrive in such settings. Internships help recruiters, who will have the option not only to mentor interns but also to absorb them once they are career-ready.

Higher education institutions should develop appropriate strategies to improve the quality of internships.

■ 1. Internships should be mandatory. All higher education institutions should ensure the integration of theory and application, which ultimately leads to knowledge production.

■ 2. Internships should be introduced only when students have acquired enough domain knowledge. Put differently, first- and second-year undergraduate students are not yet sufficiently oriented or mature enough to pursue internships that require interacting with external stakeholders, which is demanding and could even dent their self-confidence when things go wrong. It should be borne in mind that third-year undergraduates and post-graduates are internship-ready; therefore, internships should be scheduled after the fifth semester for four-year UG degree programmes and after the first semester for PG programmes.

■ 3. When students are asked to find internships on their own, the head of the department or the course teacher should provide them with recommendation letters that highlight their interests and aspirations, as well as their specific internship-oriented skills, which will facilitate organisations' decisions about awarding internships.

■ 4. Students should be encouraged to seek internships at start-ups and other growing organisations, where there are better opportunities to learn than in well-established organisations, where they will be required to stick to a routine. Quite a few establishments keep interns at the periphery and treat them as 'kids' who need certificates. Therefore, students should be enterprising while choosing organisations for internships.

■ 5. The internship duration should be clearly spelt out and should be worked out in terms of academic credits. Currently, internships last a few days to a few weeks and sometimes a whole semester, especially for students of professional courses. Clear norms, syncing duration with credits, should be in place to make internships structured and productive.

■ 6. Internships should be supervised by both the course teacher and the on-site expert. And there should be coordination between the two, especially regarding feedback and midcourse corrections. A little handholding would go a long way, especially in the initial stages, and give the interns the confidence and orientation to march ahead.

■ 7. Institutions should conduct exit interviews upon their students' completion of internships. Such analysis, examining the learning outcome of these immersion programmes, will help institutions make appropriate decisions regarding sending subsequent batches to these workplaces. Organisations also benefit from exit interviews, which shed light on which aspects of internships were helpful to students and what needs to be customised to suit students' aptitudes and skill sets.

■ 8. Institutions should ink MoUs with organisations that send their students for internships. Such formal agreements help both parties and make it relatively easier to secure internships.

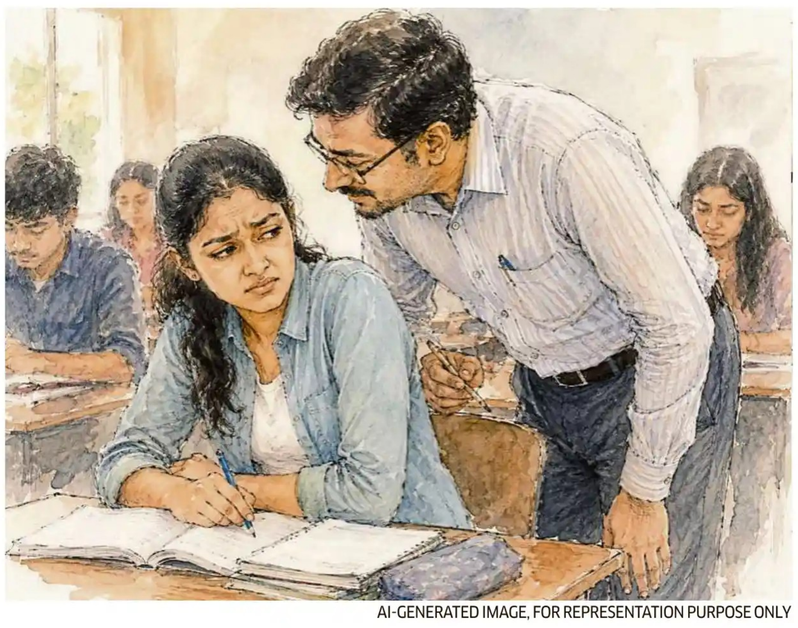
■ 9. Students, even after collecting their completion certificates, should be encouraged to remain in touch with the organisations where they interned, and this will brighten their employment prospects. In due course, these organisations will view their former interns as potential future employees.

Finally, internships should not be allowed to degenerate into money-making enterprises by unethical CEOs who capitalise on the high demand for internships. The introduction of the four-year undergraduate degree programme, in which internships, along with other forms of experiential learning, have been made mandatory, has sharply increased the demand for internships and encouraged 'paid' internships; this trend has to be dealt with decisively.

(The author is an academic based in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu)

Too close for comfort

Stricter enforcement of campus relationship policies is needed, rather than depending on students to stand up to harassment, writes P John J Kennedy



AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

Recently, something quite unpleasant and least expected from a teacher occurred in a classroom in Nelamangala. An assistant professor at a medical college proposed to a female student in front of the entire class, brought chocolates to distribute, and became angry when she refused.

The now-infamous audio clip in which a lecturer offers leaked papers to a student, calling her 'darling', is yet another event that calls into question how boundaries are enforced. The teacher-student relationship, if not maintained professionally, could be catastrophic.

The classroom is, at its core, a place built on trust that the person in front of the room is there to teach, not to exploit. When that trust is broken, the institution has a moral obligation to respond more quickly and decisively.

The UGC's 2015 Regulations, built on the POSH Act, 2013, provide a clear framework for institutions. They mandate an Internal Complaints Committee, a body every higher educational institution must constitute with at least four members, not fewer than half of whom must be women, and which must include at least one student representative and one external member from an NGO or legal background. Mind you, this is not a suggestion; it is a statutory requirement.

The ICC is empowered to conduct time-bound inquiries, recommend interim relief, such as transferring the respondent out of the complainant's department or restricting campus access, and impose penalties under service rules if guilt is established. Institutions that fail to constitute an ICC or obstruct its functioning can face suspension of grants and even derecognition by the UGC.

Beyond the ICC, the regulations also mandate a formal written Code of Conduct for all faculty, explicitly prohibiting unwelcome physical contact, verbal propositions, sexually coloured remarks, and any conduct that creates a hostile learning environment. Institutions are required to prominently display ICC contact details on notice boards, in student handbooks, and on institutional websites so that students know where to go and whom to contact.

Additionally, annual gender sensitisation programmes are mandatory for both teaching and non-teaching staff, and institutions must file annual compliance reports with the UGC through the SAKSHAM portal, which functions as a gender audit mechanism. On paper, this is a genuinely robust framework.

However, ICCs exist only on paper in many colleges, constituted to satisfy a checklist rather than to function. Gender sensitisation workshops are often treated as bureaucratic rituals: a PowerPoint, a register, and a signature. When incidents do occur, most institutions frequently choose silence over process. The fear of reputational damage turns institutional leadership into quiet accomplices. Students, meanwhile, navigate a power structure that is inherently stacked against them because teachers control grades, attendance, and letters of recommendation. Reporting, then, is not simply a matter of courage; it is a calculation of survival.

The remedies

Against this backdrop, what is required to make the system more meaningful?

First, ICC meetings must become auditable, mandatory, and regular, not called only when an incident demands it. Their composition must include genuine student representatives, not handpicked ones. External members, as the regulation already requires, must be independent members of civil society, not associates of management.

Second, the UGC's SAKSHAM portal offers a centralised grievance redressal mechanism, but its requirement for identifiable registration and reliance on formal institutional channels undermine its utility as a low-threshold, student-driven reporting system. An independent, anonymised mechanism, structurally decoupled from institutional mediation, would likely lower barriers to disclosure and meaningfully increase students' willingness to come forward. Third, the consequences for institutions that suppress complaints must be swift and public. If a college buries an ICC complaint, it should face immediate financial and accreditation consequences. Public disclosure of non-compliant institutions, similar to how NAAC grades are published, would create the kind of reputational pressure that institutions currently weaponise against complainants.

Fourth, faculty induction must be redesigned. Professional ethics cannot be a single slide in an orientation deck. Every faculty appointment should involve a formal, assessed module on professional conduct, power dynamics, and the specific legal framework governing teacher-student relationships. Renewal of contracts could be linked to periodic reassessment.

In the Nelamangala case, students, not administrators, forced accountability. In the audio clip case, the student went before the ICC, and finally, the college filed a police complaint. A system that depends on students being brave enough to go public before anything happens is already a failure.

Structural empowerment requires genuine proactive measures. It means, for example, elected student representatives on the ICC who cannot be removed by college management have protected tenure and whose participation is not ceremonial. It can also be a peer support network, trained and recognised by the institution, and if needed, the student representative on the ICC has the right to call a special sitting independently.

These do not require new legislation; the UGC regulations already provide the skeleton. The institutional will to put muscle on those bones is what is needed.

(The author is a former professor and dean of a Bengaluru-based university)

BULLETIN BOARD

UG admissions open

Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University (MSBCU) has invited applications for UG admissions for 2026–27 at Jnanajyothi Central College Campus, University College for Women (Malleshwaram) and PG Centre, Bagalur. Courses offered include BCA (AI & ML, Data Science), B.Com, BBA, BA and B.Sc programmes. Languages offered include Kannada, English, Hindi, French and German. Details: bcu.ac.in

BBA applications

IIM Bangalore has opened applications for the third batch of its online BBA in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship (BBA-DBE). Last date: June 30, 2026. Details and application: https://dbe.iimb.ac.in/

Programme care coordinator

Ayu Devimeces is hiring a programme care coordinator intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of clinical data management, effective communication, medical terminology, patient care, and patient counselling can apply by June 12. The stipend is Rs 12,000-15,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/fcc992

AI & process automation

Weaving Vibes is hiring an AI & Process Automation intern in Bengaluru. Students with experience in data analytics, effective communication, generative AI tools, machine learning operations (MLOps), MS Excel, and Python can apply by June 12. The stipend is Rs 10,000-12,000 / month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/1d0d58.

Digital marketing

SkillLevel is hiring a digital marketing intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of digital marketing and who possess team management, interpersonal, and leadership skills can apply by June 14. The stipend is Rs 6,000-8,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/72f57c.

Lead generation

Globik AI Private Limited is hiring a lead generation intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of cold calling and English proficiency (written + spoken) can apply by June 14. The stipend is Rs 8,500-15,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/b33941.

CAREER CORNER

Define career success for yourself

MAULLIKA SHARMA

Every young professional entering the workplace wants to be "successful." Few pause to ask what that word means to them.

The early years of a career are often driven by socially defined milestones: a well-known employer, a respectable job title, a fast-track promotion, and a certain salary by a certain age. Success becomes something to chase—urgently and unquestioningly—based on standards we inherit rather than consciously choose.

But success, like failure, is a word we often misuse. It is meant to describe outcomes of events, not people.

You can fail at an interview, miss a promotion, lose a job, or take longer than your peers to figure things out — and still be a capable, intelligent, valuable, worthy person. Likewise, getting into a top company or earning a high salary does not automatically make someone "successful" in every aspect of their life.

Success is situational. So is failure.

Yet, for freshers stepping into the corporate world, the pressure to internalise every outcome as a verdict on their self-worth is immense. A rejected application becomes "I'm not good enough." A slow start to a career becomes "I've fallen behind." One mistake at work becomes "I'm a failure."

Over time, this way of thinking can be deeply damaging.

Social definitions hijack personal meaning

Most young professionals do not consciously define success for themselves. Instead, they absorb it — from peers, family, recruiters, LinkedIn posts, compensation comparisons, social media and societal expectations. Success becomes synonymous with speed, visibility, and external validation.

But these definitions are rarely complete.

Someone may climb the corporate ladder quickly while feeling deeply unfulfilled, burned out, or disconnected from their values. Another may take a winding career path—changing roles, industries, or even taking breaks—while slowly building skills, confidence, and clarity about what truly matters to them.

Where one story is applauded and the other questioned, the assumption is often that the first person has succeeded and the second has failed. The reality, however, is far more nuanced.

Failure is not a personal identity

One of the hardest lessons for freshers is learning to separate what happened from who they are.

Not getting the job you want is not proof that you lack talent. Struggling in your first job is not evidence that you chose the wrong career—or that you are an incapable person. Early career setbacks are not red flags for a doomed future; they are part of the learning curve that almost no one talks about openly.

When failure is treated as an identity rather than an experience, it can paralyse growth. People stop experimenting, taking risks, stepping out of their comfort zone, or asking for help — not because they lack potential, but because they fear being "exposed".

Understanding that failure is an event, not a label, allows young professionals to recover, recalibrate, and move forward with greater self-awareness.

Define your own version of success

This is why it is crucial, especially early in one's career, to pause and ask: What does success mean to me?

For some, it may mean financial stability. For others, it may mean having more money than their peers—a bigger house, a bigger car, more frequent foreign trips. And for some others, it may be defined by learning opportunities, meaningful work, flexibility, or social impact. There is no single correct, universally acceptable, or universally applicable definition of success. So go ahead and define it for yourself, not as a benchmark of your worth but more as a north star showing you where to go next.

Your own personal definition may evolve over time, and that is perfectly normal. What matters is that your success is intentional, not inherited.

When you define success for yourself, external benchmarks become reference points rather than determinants. Comparisons lose their grip. Career decisions become more aligned with purpose rather than panic. Your personal growth becomes the most important goal.

Resilience as a career skill

Careers today and going forward will rarely be linear. Roles will evolve, industries will shift, and job security — once taken for granted — will no longer be guaranteed. In such a world, resilience is not a soft skill; it is a survival skill.

Resilience comes from understanding that neither success nor failure is permanent. That a bad phase does not erase past learning, and a good phase does not guarantee smooth sailing forever. Success is a transient event, as is failure. As the basketball coach John Wooden once said, "Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts."

For freshers, courage means staying curious rather than defensive, reflective rather than reactive, and honest rather than performative.

A sustainable way

The corporate world will always have metrics. That is probably the one thing that will not change. What can change is how young professionals internalise those metrics to define themselves.

When success is defined too narrowly and failure too personally, the cost is often mental health, low confidence, and a lack of fulfilment. When success is defined more holistically, setbacks become teachers rather than threats.

Early in your career, you will succeed at some things and fail at others. Neither will define you in entirety — unless you allow them to.

Taking the time to define success for yourself may be one of the most important career decisions you ever make.

Changing subjects in XI CBSE: What you need to know

SHAZMAN SHARIFF

AI-GENERATED IMAGE, FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

The new session for Grade XI is set to begin in June. Students choosing Science, Commerce, or Humanities look forward to exploring new subjects, often after considering their interests and higher-education goals. However, many later find themselves unsure whether their subject choices align with their future career paths.

As academic pressure builds, students often realise they underestimated the demands of their chosen stream. For Science students, Chemistry shifts from introductory and memory-based learning in Grade 10 to conceptual and numerical learning in Grade XI. Physics becomes more mathematical and application-oriented, moving beyond descriptive and formula-based content.

The conceptual shift, interconnected syllabus, and fast-paced teaching demand regular self-study. Students also face pressure from competitive exams such as NEET, JEE, and other entrance tests.

An increasingly common pattern is a shift from Science to Commerce or the Humanities. Students who find PCMB/CS too demanding often opt for subjects such as Entrepreneurship, Political Science, Legal Studies, Psychology, Physical Education, Economics, or Mass Media Studies. However, any change to the combination should be made after considering the undergraduate eligibility criteria.

Common reasons for subject changes include:

■ Difficulty coping with the level of subjects

■ Subject content not matching expectations or career goals

■ Personal preference outweighs parental pressure

■ Stress and inability to score well

■ Low confidence due to underperformance

■ Reassessment of career interests

■ In some cases, students request changes after a transfer because their new school does not offer the same subjects.

Career counsellor and educator Dr Ali Khwaja says many students are not properly guided while choosing streams. "Many are not aware that science portions increase significantly from 10th to 11th. Similarly, students who move away from science often know little about Commerce subjects such as Business Studies and Accountancy. Many interested in the Humanities are discouraged because they are told there is no 'scope' in those fields."

The next important question is CBSE's policy on subject changes.

CBSE allows students to change subjects to reduce hardship and stress, but such requests must be made within the stipulated period in Grade XI, before school registration is completed, preferably before July 15.

No subject changes are permitted in Grade XII, as Grades XI and XII form a two-year integrated Senior Secondary curriculum. Changing subjects midway can create conceptual gaps and affect performance in Board and entrance examinations.

Dr Khwaja says CBSE schools across India and abroad need standardised rules and procedures, which makes late changes difficult. He adds that even if changes were allowed in Grade XII, they could place excessive academic pressure on students.

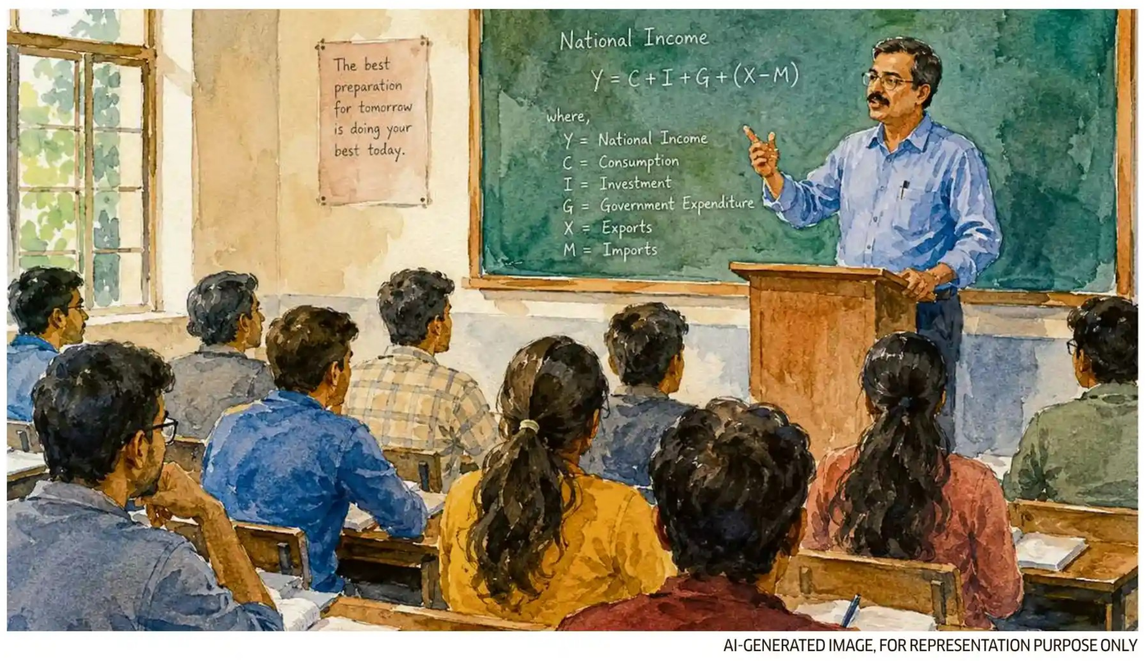
Advice for students

Before finalising combinations, students should carefully review CBSE syllabi and sample papers. They should also research college courses and career options linked to their chosen subjects.

Speaking to seniors and understanding academic expectations can help avoid rushed decisions. Choosing Commerce or Humanities after Science is not about limiting opportunities; it is about selecting a path better suited to one's interests, abilities, and long-term goals.

Why structured classrooms are still relevant

NAVYA GUBBI SATEESHCHANDRA
AND NILOUFAR AMINPOUR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C = Consumption
I = Investment
G = Government Expenditure
X = Exports
M = Imports

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What if the most "traditional" form of teaching is, in fact, what 21st-century learners need—only delivered via a different medium? What if the most "traditional" way of teaching is exactly what modern learners need—just done differently?

Didactic teaching is a traditional, teacher-centred method of instruction where the teacher directly delivers information to students, often through lectures or explanations. This has been considered old-school for years. It is criticised for lacking interactivity and creativity. However, this is far from what classrooms look like today. When this structure is intertwined with technology and newer ways of doing things, it makes a big comeback.

Clarity in teaching is more important than ever in an era of information overload and shrinking attention spans. Structured instruction slices through the noise, effectively leading both educators and learners forward. It enables profound understanding, intellectual rigour, and conviction when applying knowledge to complicated situations in real life if given thoughtfully. Clarity in teaching is more important than ever in an era of information overload and shrinking attention spans. Structured instruction slices through the noise, effectively leading both educators and learners forward.

What is didactic teaching?

The essence of didactic teaching is simplicity. From the start of the course, the approach emphasises clear, structured explanation. Lessons follow a logical sequence, enabling students to build knowledge step by step.

This clarity is valuable. Today's learners have access to a wealth of information online, but most of it is misplaced or unreliable. A proper lesson structure puts them in the present and allows for deeper understanding, avoiding confusion. And the criticism is not without good reason. Many traditional teaching methods, like lectures, often turn students into passive audiences. There was no scope for conversation, innovation or criticism. Many learners felt disconnected.

But this rigid style was unable to cope with fast-changing classrooms. Students craved more engagement and flexibility.

What changed?

And with that came some new technology-based teaching methods.

Teachers use videos, interactive slides and simulations. Lessons are no longer spoken—they are shown, explored, and felt. During the class, students interact through quizzes, polls and discussions. One of the biggest changes is real-time feedback. Teachers can instantly check understanding using online tools.

The lesson can be adjusted instantaneously if students have difficulty. Do not forget that blended and flipped learning are also a part of it. Students may listen to lectures at home while spending classroom time discussing or solving problems. They can make the learning experience more engaging while still providing structure.

What does it look like today?

Modern didactic teaching is no longer passive. It blends structure with interaction. For example, in real-world scenarios, most teachers now share recorded lessons on Google Classroom or Moodle. Students go through these at their own pace. Then, class time is used for group work or case discussions.

For example, a science teacher might break down the process of climate change and then show its global effects using a simulation tool. Students can try scenarios that give them instant, visible results. Many universities employ a hybrid approach, combining live lectures with applications such as Kahoot or Mentimeter for live quizzes during lectures. Students answer questions in class, and professors adjust their teaching based on their responses.

In all these scenarios, the teacher, as the guide, still exists — but students interact with the material in person.

Why does it still matter?

For subjects like Economics, Mathematics, Science, and Language, you need a strong foundation. Structured teaching means ensuring we have captured the key concepts before moving forward.

However, today it does more than that. In such a situation, discussions on ethics, digital literacy, and critical thinking can be included in lessons by teachers. What this means is you do not learn facts, but how to question and use them. This method is also practical. It works well in big classrooms where you cannot provide individual attention to each student.

Because grading and attendance are handled through digital tools, teachers can focus more on teaching. Crucially, it supports access to education. With online courses, former e-learning schools can structure this learning content and provide high-quality examples, effectively creating a virtual classroom. This fills the access and opportunity gaps.

The balance that works

Balance is where the true power of modern didactic teaching surfaces. It preserves the clarity and discipline of traditional instruction. Simultaneously, it also pursues flexibility, interaction and the use of technology.

This blend creates a structured learning environment while remaining enjoyable. You make a career out of giving students a solid foundation and helping them establish those life skills.

Ultimately, didactic teaching has endured by evolving, and in doing so, remains one of the most impactful and effective methods of instruction today.

(The authors are professors, Berlin School of Business and Innovation, Berlin, Germany)

Australian varsity opens PhDs in India

The University of Melbourne is accepting applications for joint PhD programmes under its Melbourne-India Postgraduate Academy (MIPA), in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, IISc Bangalore, and IISER Tirupati.

Successful candidates receive a single jointly-awarded PhD degree, with a tuition fees waiver and a local stipend. Students must spend between 12 and 24 months at each institution. Under the IISc-Melbourne agreement, the two institutions co-fund up to 10 candidates annually for five years. Fields covered include engineering, IT, science, medicine, and dentistry. Candidates can apply to the listed projects or propose their own, provided they secure supervisors from both institutions. Details: https://t.ly/6DCSM

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Biz Bytes

Starbucks plans to set up tech office in India

BLOOMBERG: Starbucks Corp is planning to open a technology office in India as the coffeehouse chain seeks to cut $2 billion in costs.

The new hub is slated for the company's fiscal 2027, which starts in October, according to a message sent to workers and seen by *Bloomberg News*. It will be the company's first corporate office in India, and Starbucks expects to start recruiting there once it settles on a site later this year.

Strides posts 20% rise in Q4 net profit

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based pharmaceutical company Strides Pharma Science Ltd on Monday reported 20% rise in operational profit after tax at Rs 135.7 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026. In the same quarter a year ago, its profit stood at Rs 113 crore.

Its revenue during the fourth quarter increased 11.2% to Rs 1,323.5 crore in the fourth quarter as against Rs 1,190 crore in the year ago quarter.

PRO FX Tech net profit doubles in Q4

BENGALURU, DHNS: PRO FX Tech Limited has doubled its net profit in Q4 FY26 to Rs 6.12 crore, against Rs 3.07 crore a year ago. Its revenue during the quarter went up 35.36% to Rs 49.70 crore, against Rs 36.72 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

Its EBITDA margins improved 80 basis points to 15.60%. The firm also reported 37% jump in FY26 revenue to Rs 177 crore and 24% jump in net profit to Rs 15 crore.

Performance was driven by strong brand partnerships, premiumisation of demand, and disciplined execution across retail and B2B segments, it said.

Indians create 1 bn images on ChatGPT tool

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian users have created over 1 billion images on ChatGPT Images 2.0 in less than a month since OpenAI launched the tool. With this, India ranks the highest-usage market globally for the feature since launch. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman acknowledged the same on X on Monday.

Some of the top trending prompts driving that first billion include Cinematic Portrait Collage, a warm-toned, layered photo collage with golden hour lighting, Indian clothing, and floral close-ups; and Mini Me World.

India targets $1 trillion exports this fiscal, says Goyal

To achieve $2 trillion exports target in 5 years

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's exports remain resilient, despite global challenges like the West Asia conflict and the US tariffs, and are expected to increase to $1 trillion in the current financial year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

Goyal said India's overall exports, merchandise and services put together, stood at $863 billion in the financial year ended March 2026, which was around 5% higher than the previous year.

"This year's target is $1 trillion. This is a big target. We have to work together for this," Goyal said at an event organised to launch the web portal of the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav, which is scheduled to be held in the national capital from August 12-15.

As per Commerce and Industry Ministry data, India's merchandise exports rose by 0.93% to $441.78 billion in 2025-26. Robust performance of services exports led to a nearly 5% jump in the overall numbers.

Goyal said India's overall exports are targeted to increase to $2 trillion in the next five years. This includes $1 trillion each in merchandise and services.

State of Trade

India's exports resilient, despite US tariffs and global conflicts

- Services exports drive growth, while merchandise exports rise **0.93%** to **$441.78 bn**
- Forex reserves stand at about **$700 bn**, enough to cover **11 months** of imports
- India aims to raise total exports to **$2 tn** over the next five years
- Total exports rise nearly **5%** to **$863 bn** in FY26

"In the whole world, exports are decreasing, international trade is badly affected because of the prevailing situation, but it is increasing in India.
PIYUSH GOYAL, Commerce Minister

The minister claimed that India's outbound shipments have remained resilient, despite the global challenges like imposition of high tariffs by the US, the Russia-Ukraine war and the conflict in the West Asia region.

"In the whole world, exports are decreasing, international trade is badly affected because of the prevailing situation, but it is increasing in India," the minister said.

FTAs galore

Goyal noted that India has signed free trade agreements with 38 developed countries that would ensure preferential access for Indian exporters to large markets.

India has signed FTAs with the US, New Zealand and the 27-member European Union (EU).

He said these agreements will gradually come into effect, adding that the Oman FTA may come into force from June 1.

The minister claimed that India's external position remains comfortable with around $700 billion of foreign exchange (forex) reserves. "We have $700 billion, which is enough to cover 11 months of imports. The IMF says anything above eight months is very good," he said.

He said India's agricultural exports, including the products of farmers and fishermen, reached nearly Rs 5 lakh crore in 2025-26.

However, he noted that value-addition in these sectors remains low.

There is immense potential if young entrepreneurs enter value-added sectors and establish processing and manufacturing units at small, medium and large scales, Goyal added.

Rupee settles at record low of 96.20

Global sentiments continue to dampen amid conflict

MUMBAI, PTI

The Indian rupee weakened further and closed at a record low of 96.20 against the US dollar on Monday, pressured by rising crude oil prices on the back of ongoing geopolitical tensions and a strong dollar.

Forex traders said the global market sentiments continue to dampen amid simmering tensions between the US and Iran. Moreover, emerging market economies, including India, continue to feel the pressure of rising crude oil prices, as elevated rates increase the outflows of US dollars, along with the outflows already happening due to FPIs, traders said.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 96.19, then fell further to 96.39 against the dollar, registering a fall of 58 paise from its previous close. At the end of Monday's session, the rupee was quoted at 96.20, down 39 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the Indian rupee crashed below the 96/USD mark on Friday before closing at an all-time low of 95.81 against the US dollar.

"Ongoing geopolitical tensions and FII outflows may also pressure the rupee. However, any intervention by the RBI and certain restrictions on the import of gold and silver may support the rupee at lower levels. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 96-96.60," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Commodities Research, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.14, lower by 0.14% due to simmering Iran tensions.

TCS gives 5% average hike, some employees report pay cuts

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's largest IT services firm TCS has reportedly rolled out an average salary hike of 5%. But many employees have also claimed salary cuts and a reduction in CTC (cost to company) compared to the previous year.

Sources told *DH* that though TCS announced hikes, many employees were categorised into bands B and C, with less increments compared with band A. One of the employees said it was the worst hike that he/she received in the last four years in TCS. "I got only 3.16%," an employee posted on social media, and another claimed the hike this year was only 2%.

K Krithivasan

According to reports, TCS asked its managers to classify at least 5% of the workforce in Band D — the lowest performance category. When asked about it, TCS did not comment.

However, TCS spokesperson, in a statement, said, "In line with the announcement made during our Q4 earnings, we have rolled out annual increments to eligible employees. Additionally, we have completed the restructuring of compensation for all our India-based employees to align with the new labour codes. The revised salary structure that the employees have received is guided by three key principles that include compliance with the new labour codes, standardisation of wage structures across our India workforce, and protection of employees' take-home salary, while allowing flexibility for tax efficiency."

Some employees have said that their CTC decreased by over Rs 10,000. This decrease is attributed to changes in salary structures and variable pay.

According to the annual report, TCS CEO and MD K Krithivasan's remuneration in FY26 grew 6.3% to Rs 28.1 crore, and his compensation was 332.8 times the median salary of TCS employees.

The annual report also mentioned that in FY26, the average annual increase for junior and mid-level employees was in the range of 4.5-7.0%, with top performers receiving double-digit increments in India. However, during the course of the year, the total increase was in the range of 5.0-8.0%, after accounting for promotions and other event-based compensation revisions. Junior and mid-level employees outside India received a wage increase varying from 1.5-6.0%, the company disclosed in the annual report.

US Justice Dept drops all charges against Adani, nephew, case closed permanently

NEW DELHI/NEW YORK, PTI

The US Department of Justice has permanently dropped all criminal charges against Indian tycoon Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar, bringing high-profile securities and wire fraud case in New York to a complete close after prosecutors concluded they could not sustain the allegations.

With this, multiple US regulatory and legal investigations involving the group have all closed in the last couple of days.

Last week, the US Securities and Exchange Commission settled civil allegations against the two men tied to disclosures made to investors in connection with solar energy projects in India. Court filings showed Gautam Adani agreed to pay $6 million and Sagar $12 million, without admitting or denying wrongdoing.

Thereafter, the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) settled allegations of the Adani Group violating US sanctions on Iran in LPG imports. This followed the Indian conglomerate agreeing to pay $275 million, while extending "extensive cooperation" with the investigation and making "proactive" disclosures. Now, the US prosecutors at the Eastern District of New York dropped all charges against Gautam Adani and Sagar. In a filing before the court, the US Department of Justice requested for dismissal of the indictment against the Adanis with prejudice.

Gautam Adani

"The Department of Justice has reviewed this case and has decided, in its prosecutorial discretion, not to devote further resources to these criminal charges against individual defendants," it said.

Thereafter, the court ordered that the indictment against Adani and others "be dismissed with prejudice".

The closure marks a dramatic turn in a case that had threatened to disrupt the Adani Group's global expansion plans. The SEC and DOJ cases, filed in late 2024, alleged the Adanis orchestrated a $265 million bribery scheme involving Indian officials to secure solar power contracts and concealed the arrangement from US investors and lenders while raising capital.

The dismissal was "with prejudice", preventing the case from being reopened. Such dismissals are uncommon in US criminal proceedings and typically reflect a determination that pursuing the case is no longer warranted after extensive review. The case turned in Adani's favour after prosecutors found no clear US linkages and insufficient evidence to sustain the allegations, according to sources.

The anticipated decision follows months of aggressive engagement between US prosecutors and a formidable legal team assembled by the Adanis. Five American legal counsel from Sullivan & Cromwell, alongside Nixon Peabody, Hecker Fink, Norton Rose Fulbright and Bracewell, made a series of submissions and presentations to US authorities as part of the review process.

Maruti starts mfg at new plant

NEW DELHI, PTI: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Monday announced the start of commercial production at the second plant of its Kharkhoda manufacturing facility in Haryana.

The second plant has an annual production capacity of 2.5 lakh units, taking the total capacity at Kharkhoda to 5 lakh units, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) said in a statement.

India to keep buying Russian oil regardless of US sanctions waiver

NEW DELHI, PTI: India has been purchasing Russian oil irrespective of US sanctions waiver and will continue to do so based on commercial viability and energy security needs, a senior petroleum ministry official said on Monday.

"Regarding the American waiver on Russia, I would like to emphasise that we have been purchasing from Russia earlier... before waiver also, during waiver also, and now also," Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the ministry, told reporters.

Sharma said India's crude sourcing decisions were driven primarily by commercial considerations and adequate supply availability.

"It is basically the commercial sense which should be there for us to purchase," she said, adding that there was no shortage of crude supplies and enough volumes had been tied up through long-term arrangements.

A temporary US sanctions waiver allowing the sale and delivery of Russian seaborne crude expired on May 16, marking the second time Washington has allowed the relief measure to lapse without clarity on an extension.

"Whatever waiver or no waiver, it (availability) will not affect," Sharma said.

OMCs' daily losses ease to Rs 750 cr

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Despite a recent Rs 3-per-litre increase in petrol and diesel prices, state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) continue to incur under-recoveries of around Rs 750 crore per day, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The price revision, the first in more than four years, came into effect on May 15 after daily losses had soared to an unprecedented Rs 1,000 crore. The hike has trimmed losses by nearly a quarter, but elevated global crude prices and a weak rupee are still preventing full-cost recovery.

Infy declares 70% average Q4 bonus, lowest in FY26

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services major Infosys on Monday rolled out an average performance bonus of 70% to eligible employees for the fourth quarter of FY26. This is 15 percentage points lower than the December quarter bonus payout of 85%, which was the highest payout in recent times.

This Q4 bonuses range between 63% and 82%. In an internal communication, seen by *DH*, Infosys said the organisation's average bonus payout stood at 70% for Q4 FY26. Employees at Level PL4 with an outstanding (OS) rating will receive 82%, and those who met expectation (ME) will be given a 67% bonus. Employees at PL5 and PL6 levels with an outstanding rating will be given 79% and 77% bonus payout, respectively. Those who 'met expectations' will be rewarded with 65% and 63% bonus payout, respectively. This bonus payout comes at a time when the IT industry is facing multiple headwinds including macro uncertainties. In Q2 FY26, the firm provided 75% average bonus to employees, and in the first quarter, it was 80%.

Infosys posted a 20.87% increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2026 at Rs 8,501 crore. The firm had reported a 13.38% increase in its revenue from operations for the March quarter at Rs 46,402 crore, compared to Rs 40,925 crore in Q4FY25.

Oil prices decline on report of US sanctions relief for Iran during talks

LONDON, AFP: Oil prices turned lower in afternoon trading on Monday after an Iranian media report said US officials had agreed to suspend sanctions against its crude, while talks on ending the war continue.

The unconfirmed Tasnim report cited an unnamed source, but analysts said traders seized on the news after US President Donald Trump warned Tehran that time was running out to make a deal.

Despite the uncertainty, "this is good first step, if confirmed", said Fawad Razaqzada, an analyst at Forex.com.

At around 1345 GMT (7:15 pm IST), Brent North Sea Crude was down 1.0% at $108.12 a barrel, while WTI was down 1.2% at $99.86 a barrel.

The report helped dispel worries that building inflation pressures would weigh on economic growth and dent the AI-fuelled tech rally that sent US stocks in particular to record highs last week.

Cargo Matters launches EV bus mfg facility in Belagavi

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Homegrown technology-driven logistics enterprise Cargo Matters on Monday announced the commencement of electric bus manufacturing operations in Karnataka, backed by an investment of Rs 318 crore.

The 19-acre facility at Auto Nagar in Belagavi, will manufacture electric buses designed for inter-city travel. "Preliminary data places the per kilometre operating cost of Cargo Matters electric buses at Rs 17-20, compared to approximately Rs 50 per km for diesel-powered alternatives from global manufacturers. At that differential, the case for fleet transition is not merely environmental; it is financially irresistible," said Umesh Padala, Founder and Chairman of Cargo Matters.

"In Phase-1, we will launch 9-metre buses, including school and university buses as per AIS052 rules. Phase-2 and 3 will take a minimum of 14-16 months. We have officially started manufacturing after spending the last 18 months on R&D and plant setup," he said, adding, "We are building vehicles that cost less to acquire and dramatically less to run. That equation changes everything for fleet operators across India."

The plant currently has the capacity to manufacture 25 buses per month, with plans to scale up to 150-200 buses monthly over the next five years.

Beyond inter-city buses, Cargo Matters plans to manufacture long-haul electric trailer trucks with a range of 600-700 km per charge. The vehicles will feature battery packs exceeding 800 kWh and target large logistics operators, alongside the company's own freight network.

Cargo Matters also envisions developing a mini pickup van for urban cargo transfer and last-mile logistics in Tier-1 and 2 cities. The company claims that the full roadmap across buses, long-haul trucks, and last-mile vans is achievable within a five-year horizon, citing maturing battery technology, a supportive policy environment, and the visible appetite of India's logistics industry for cost-effective, low-emission alternatives.

RURAL TECH

Govt opens CoE for agri innovation in Kalaburagi

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Government of Karnataka on Monday launched the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Agri & Allied Innovation in Kalaburagi, marking a significant milestone in advancing rural innovation, agri-tech, and entrepreneurship in the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The Centre, being established under the Local Economy Acceleration Programme (LEAP) — the Government's flagship Rs 1,000 crore initiative — will serve as a dedicated hub for research, innovation, and enterprise development in agriculture and allied sectors. Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka inaugurated the centre at Gold Hub, Kalaburagi.

The event also marked the rollout of the 'Vikas and Prerana' programmes aimed at supporting grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. Building on the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed earlier this year between the Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology (GoK), through the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), and Krishi Kalpa Foundation, the Centre is now operational and set to drive onground impact.

A hub for rural innovation and agri-tech growth, the Centre of Excellence will focus on research and development in agri-tech and allied sectors, promotion of AI-enabled agriculture, IoT, robotics, and digital farming solutions.

It will also focus on skill development and capacity-building initiatives for rural youth and entrepreneurs, support for startups, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and grassroots innovators.

Speaking at the launch, Kharge highlighted the Government's continued focus on expanding innovation ecosystems beyond Bengaluru. "Kalyana Karnataka has immense potential to emerge as a hub for innovation in agriculture and rural enterprise. The launch of this Centre of Excellence is a decisive step towards bringing technology, entrepreneurship and opportunity closer to our communities. It will enable farmers, startups, and young innovators to collaborate on cutting-edge solutions while strengthening livelihoods and driving inclusive growth," he said.

Priyank Kharge

Highlighting the scale of Karnataka's startup ecosystem, he added, "Karnataka today is home to nearly 18,000 registered startups, and our focus is on ensuring they have access to the right support systems — including mentorship, pilot opportunities, and funding. We recognise that each startup requires early-stage backing of around Rs 50 lakh, and the Government is committed to extending this support to nearly 1,500 startups to help them scale and succeed."

He further added that the government is actively building strong innovation ecosystems across cities such as Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, and Kalaburagi.

Lalthantluangi gets maiden call-up

NEW DELHI, PTI: Defender Lalthantluangi on Monday received her maiden senior team call-up for the upcoming tour of Australia, where seasoned mid-fielder Salima Tete will lead the Indian women's hockey team.

The tour, scheduled from May 26 to 30 in Perth, is a part of preparation for the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025-26, which will be held in Auckland from June 15-21.

The Indian team heads into the tour on the back of a strong showing in Argentina earlier this year.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam. **Defenders:** Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Lalthantluangi, Jyoti, Shilpi Dabas. **Midfielders:** Salima Tete, Lalremsiami, Neha, Sakshi Rana, Sunelita Toppo, Deepika Soreng, Sonam. **Forwards:** Navneet Kaur, Baljeet Kaur, Deepika, Annu, Ishika, Hina Bano, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal.

Aces blank Technico 3-0

BENGALURU, DHNS: Goals from Mahendra Mani (1st minute), Sebastian Jude (50th), including an own goal by Shreyas Shivakumar (17th), led United Aces FC to a 3-0 win over Technico FF in Group C of the south zone match in the KSFA C Division League here on Monday.

Results: South Zone: Group C: United Aces FC 3 (Mahendra Mani 1st, Shreyas Shivakumar -17th OG, Sebastian Jude 50th) Technico FF: 0; Vanquisher Sports: 2 (Pradheesh Varadarajan 36th, Paras Pradhan 58th) bt Play Smart FC: 1 (Dhanush B 45th); BM FC: 1 (Ajith 53rd) bt FC Bangalore: 0.
Group: D: North East Youth FC: 1 (Sunil Kumar A 40th) bt Freelancers FC: 0; Real Bengaluru: 3 bt TAL FC: 0 (Walkover); Bangalore Champs: 2 (Laga Subramani 19th, Mohammed Aathif 40th) bt-Noel Wilson FC: 0.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: RR vs LSG (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Bournemouth vs Man City (**11:50 pm**), Chelsea vs Tottenham (**12:45 am, Wednesday**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

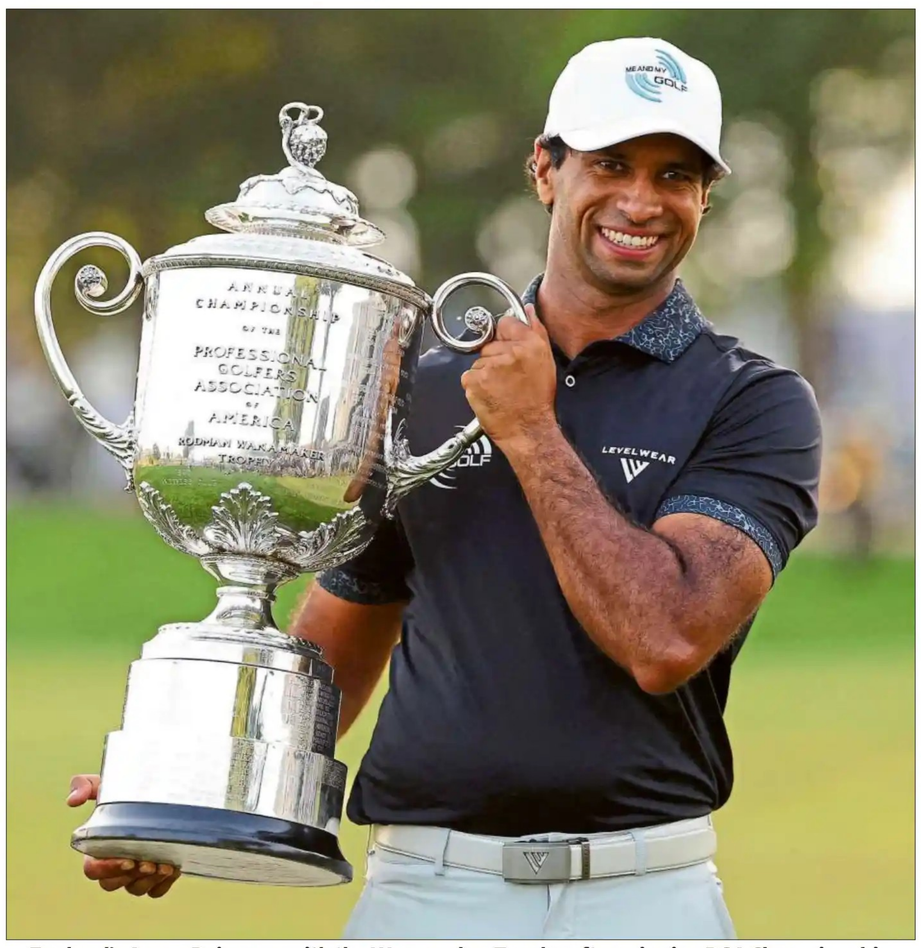
ISL: NEUFC vs Mohammedan (**5 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.**

GOLF PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Rai's red-letter day

Briton with Indian heritage wins the Wanamaker Trophy for maiden major

V KRISHNASWAMY
NEWTOWN SQUARE (USA)



England's Aaron Rai poses with the Wanamaker Trophy after winning PGA Championship on Sunday. IMAGN IMAGES

England's Aaron Rai delivered a stunning performance to capture the 2026 PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club, claiming his maiden Major title in dramatic fashion. The 31-year-old, who began the week ranked World No. 44, produced a composed and fearless display to secure the prestigious Wanamaker Trophy and is set to rise to a career-best world No. 15.

Indian-American Sahith Theegala, who made the cut, finished T-60. Theegala and Rai, as also Akshay Bhatia, who missed the cut, played at the 2024 Hero World Challenge together as an Indian-origin trio. In 2024 and 2025, Rai teamed with Theegala at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

Rai closed with a brilliant five-under-par 65 — the finest Major round of his career — to finish at nine-under overall and win by three shots. His victory announced the arrival of a new face in world golf and marked one of the most memorable breakthrough performances in recent Major history.

The triumph was historic on multiple fronts. Rai became only the second English golfer to win the PGA Championship. The only English player to have won the PGA Championship was Jim Barnes, who won the title in 1916 and 1919 when the tournament was played in a match-play format.

Rai's success also ended a decade-long dominance by American players at the PGA Championship.

Born in England to parents of Indian descent, with his mother having grown up in Kenya, Rai also became the first golfer of Indian heritage to win a men's Major championship. The achievement carried special significance for Indian and South Asian golf fans, who have long awaited greater representation at the highest level of the sport.

Rai's wife Gaurika Bishnoi is a professional golfer from India, adding another emotional connection to his landmark success.

The final round began with overnight leader Alex Smalley holding a two-shot advantage in one of the tightest Major leaderboards in recent memory. More than 20 players remained in contention, including established stars such as Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Xander Schauffele, Ludvig Aberg and world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler.

Rai stayed patient throughout the early stages despite bogeys on the sixth and eighth holes that briefly pushed him three shots behind the leaders. His tournament-changing moment arrived at the ninth, where he produced a stunning eagle that completely shifted his momentum. From there, Rai took complete control.

He played the final 10 holes in six-under par, combining exceptional iron play with fearless putting. Four birdies on the back nine, without a single bogey, highlighted his composure under pressure.

The highlight of the championship came on the 17th green when Rai drained an extraordinary 68-foot putt — one of the longest successful putts of the week. The dramatic effort sent spectators into celebration and effectively sealed the title.

While several leading contenders attempted late charges, none could match Rai's consistency and calmness. Jon Rahm finished tied for second alongside Smalley at six-under, while Justin Thomas, Matti Schmid and Ludvig Aberg shared fourth place at five-under. Cameron Smith, Rory McIlroy and Xander Schauffele ended tied seventh at four-under.

Meanwhile, world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler struggled on the greens and finished tied 14th alongside Matt Fitzpatrick at two-under.

Rai's rise to the top has been built steadily over several years. Known for his disciplined approach and meticulous preparation — including wearing gloves on both hands and using iron covers during play — he first gained recognition on the European circuit before breaking through on the PGA Tour.

His victory at the 2024 Wyndham Championship established him as a serious contender, but his performance at Aronimink elevated him into golf's elite category.

The PGA Championship win now grants Rai lifetime entry into the tournament, five-year exemptions into the other three Majors, and long-term PGA Tour status.

Praggnanandhaa plays out a draw with Foreest

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), PTI

R Praggnanandhaa. X

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Dutchman Jorden Van Foreest even as Germany's Vincent Keymer surged ahead following a facile victory in the fourth round of Super Chess Classic here.

With a sole win over Alireza Firouzja of France and three draws, Praggnanandhaa inched to 2.5 points out of a possible four while Vincent moved to sole lead on three points after beating Franch Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

On a day when Anish Giri also got an easy draw against World Championships challenger Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan, Wesley So was also held to a draw by Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania.

Firouzja abstained from playing the fourth round citing health issues.

Praggnanandhaa faced an irregular opening as black and did not have any trouble equalising.

Van Foreest, who is slowly gaining ground and is already in top 20 of world rankings, pushed harder for a win among the two. As it happened, the players decided to repeat and the truce was called in just 35 moves.

Keymer was a class act as Vachier-Lagrave was outdone in the middle game.

After an English attack against the Najdorf Sicilian, Keymer sensed his chances with white pieces and launched a central attack that worked well given that the Frenchman had clear weaknesses on the king side.

Keymer pounced on an opportunity that gave him a rook for a Bishop and just moments later, Vachier-Lagrave erred decisively to lose further material. It was all over in just 38 moves.

Results round 4: Jorden Van Foreest (Ned, 2.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 1.5) vs Aiireza Firouzja (Fra, 0.5) game postponed; Wesley So (USA, 2) drew with Deac Bogdan Daniel (Rou, 1); Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 1.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3) beat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2).

Kirti, Kumkum headline archery squad

SONEPAT, PTI: Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari, former India No. 1 Atanu Das and multiple Asian Games medallist Abhishek Verma failed to make India's archery squad for the Asian Games in Japan after a gruelling three-day selection trial which concluded here on Monday.

Teenagers Kirti Sharma and Kumkum Mohod emerged as the biggest gainers in the women's recurve section, while Olympian Ankita Bhakat sealed the third and final berth after defeating Deepika in a shoot-off.

The squad: Recurve men: Dhiraj Bommadevara (SSCB), Neeraj Chauhan (AIPSCB), Yashdeep Bhoge (RSPB), Atanu Das (PSPB). **Recurve women:** Kirti Sharma (Haryana), Kumkum Mohod (Maharashtra), Ankita Bhakat (Jharkhand), Deepika Kumari (PSPB). **Compound men:** Sahil Jadhav (RSPB), Kushal Dalal (Haryana), Thirumuru Ganesh Mani Ratnam (Andhra Pradesh), Rishabh Yadav (Haryana). **Compound women:** Jyothi Surekha Vennam (AAI), Chikitha Taniparthi (Telangana), Prithika Pradeep (Maharashtra), Parneet Kaur (Punjab).

Vinesh seeks relief from judiciary to get back on mat

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court on Monday said it would examine the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) selection policy before passing any order on wrestler Vinesh Phogat's **(in pic)** plea seeking a fair opportunity to make a comeback to competitive wrestling.

The matter came up for hearing days after Vinesh approached the court on May 14, challenging her exclusion from the national wrestling selection process amid an ongoing dispute with the WFI.

Vinesh had last week reached Gonda in Uttar Pradesh for the National Open Ranking tournament, which was supposed to be her comeback event but the federation asked her to first reply to the show-cause notice.

A frustrated Vinesh then knocked the doors of the judiciary.

"During the hearing, the court asked the former World Championships medallist to respond to the show-cause notice issued by the federation," a source closely following the developments told PTI.

"The court said that it would study the WFI's eligibility and trial norms before arriving at a judgment on whether Vinesh should be allowed to participate in the upcoming selection events."

The case adds another chapter to the prolonged standoff between one of India's most decorated wrestlers and the national federation.

Vinesh, who announced her return to the mat earlier this year after retiring following the Paris Olympics heartbreak, revealed she is eligible to compete as per International Testing Agency (ITA) even as WFI said that she was ineligible.

Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski (left) and Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann played their last home matches for their respective clubs in La Liga on Sunday. REUTERS/AFP

Barcelona cap off perfect home season

MADRID, AP

Spanish champion Barcelona capped a perfect season at home — 19 wins in 19 La Liga matches — with a 3-1 victory over Real Betis on Sunday as Robert Lewandowski bid an emotional farewell to Camp Nou.

Barcelona announced Saturday that the 37-year-old Lewandowski was leaving after four seasons.

Antoine Griezmann also said goodbye to Atletico Madrid's fans at the Metropolitano stadium before he moves to the United States to play in Major League Soccer. Atletico beat Girona 1-0.

Sevilla avoided relegation despite a 0-1 loss to Real Madrid at home. Vinicius Junior scored for Madrid, who had already sealed second place.

Five teams will enter next weekend's final round looking to avoid the drop: Levante, Osasuna, Elche, Girona and Mallorca.

Results: FC Barcelona: 3 (Raphinha 28th, 62nd, Joao Cancelo 74th) bt Real Betis: 1 (Isco 69th P); Sevilla: 0 lt to Real Madrid: 1 (Vinicius Jr 15th); Elche: 1 (Chust 19th) bt Getafe: 0; Atletico Madrid: 1 (Lookman 21st) bt Girona: 0. Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Inaki 52nd) drew with Celta Vigo: 1 (Swedberg 4th); Levante: 2 (Espi 32nd, Arriaga 87th) bt Mallorca: 0; Rayo Vallecano: 2 (Camello 28th, Alemao 47th) bt Villarreal: 0; Real Oviedo: 0 lt to Alaves: 1 (Toni 17th); Real Sociedad: 3 (Aihen 3rd, Tarrega 60th OG, Oskarsson 63rd) lt to Valencia: 4 (Javi Guerra 8th, 90+3rd, Hugo Duro 22nd, G Rodriguez 89th); Osasuna: 1 (Victor MV 49th) lt to Espanyol: 2 (Romero 27th, Kike G 53rd).

Kickstart end IWL at third spot

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kickstart FC ended their Indian Women's League season in third place following a 1-1 draw with league runners-up Sethu FC in Kolkata on Monday.

Team's top scorer Emem Essien scored her seventh goal of the season to put Kickstart ahead in the 22nd minute and remain in charge for most of the match before T Hoshika's 83rd-minute equaliser denied them a win in their season-closing match.

Kickstart, who were battling relegation in the first phase, ended the Kolkata phase of the league unbeaten with four wins and three draws, including a memorable win over two-time champions East Bengal.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division,
Amruthnagara-Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru-62

No.: EE/UAD/TEND/03/2026-27 **Date: 18.05.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal) Single & Two Cover Tender

The Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru-560062 Invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW1, KW2 & KW3)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works for the year 2026-27
1	**Ward No. 33,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-II(A).**
2	**Ward No. 34,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **ST.**
3	**Ward No. 35,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
4	**Ward No. 36,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-II(A).**
5	**Ward No. 37,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **ST.**
6	**Ward No. 38,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
7	**Ward No. 39,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-II(A).**
8	**Ward No. 40,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **ST.**
9	**Ward No. 41,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
10	**Ward No. 42,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-II(A).**
11	**Ward No. 43,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
12	**Ward No. 44,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **28,700/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-I.**
13	**Ward No. 45,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
14	**Ward No. 46,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
15	**Ward No. 47,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
16	**Ward No. 48,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
17	**Ward No. 49,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
18	**Ward No. 50,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
19	**Ward No. 51,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
20	**Ward No. 52,** Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **28.70,** EMD (in Rs.): **57,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
	Filling of potholes, other improvement and maintenance works for the year 2026-27
21	in Gottigere Sub Division **(Wrad No. 38 & 39 - each 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **32.80,** EMD (in Rs.): **65,600/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
22	in Naganathapura Sub Division **(Ward No. 33, 34 & 35 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **49.20,** EMD (in Rs.): **98,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
23	in Beguru Sub Division **(Ward No. 36 & 37 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **32.80,** EMD (in Rs.): **65,600/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
24	in Bhireshwara Nagara Sub Division **(Ward No. 41, 42 & 43 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **49.20,** EMD (in Rs.): **98,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
25	in Anjanapura Sub Division **(Ward No. 40 & 52 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **32.80,** EMD (in Rs.): **32,800/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-II(A).**
26	in Konnakunte Sub Division **(Ward No. 44, 45 & 48 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **49.20,** EMD (in Rs.): **49,200/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
27	in Yalachenahalli Sub Division **(Ward No. 46 & 47 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **32.80,** EMD (in Rs.): **32,800/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
28	in Uttarahalli Sub Division **(Ward No. 49, 50 & 51 - each Ward 20.00 Lakhs)** roads. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **49.20,** EMD (in Rs.): **98,400/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
	Annual Maintenance for filling of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Subarterial roads for the year 2026-27
29	in **Ward No. 38 & 39**, Gottigere Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **24.60,** EMD (in Rs.): **49,200/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
30	in **Ward No. 33, 34 & 35,** Naganathapura Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **36.90,** EMD (in Rs.): **73,800/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
31	in **Ward No. 36 & 37,** Beguru Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **24.60,** EMD (in Rs.): **49,200/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
32	in **Ward No. 41, 42 & 43,** Bhireshwara Nagara Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **36.90,** EMD (in Rs.): **73,800/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
33	in **Ward No. 40 & 52,** Anjanapura Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **24.60,** EMD (in Rs.): **24,600/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-1.**
34	in **Ward No. 44, 45 & 48,** Konnakunte Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **36.90,** EMD (in Rs.): **36,900/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
35	in **Ward No. 46 & 47,** Yalachenahalli Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **24.60,** EMD (in Rs.): **49,200/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
36	in **Ward No. 49, 50 & 51,** Uttarahalli Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **36.90,** EMD (in Rs.): **73,800/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
	Providing and Supply of Tipper & Labours for Immersion of Ganesha Idols for the year 2026-27
37	in **Ward No. 38 & 39,** Gottigere Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **4.92,** EMD (in Rs.): **6,150/-,** Category / Reserved for: **CAT-II(A).**
38	in **Ward No. 33, 34 & 35,** Naganathapura Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **7.38,** EMD (in Rs.): **9,225/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
39	in **Ward No. 36 & 37,** Beguru Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **4.92,** EMD (in Rs.): **6,150/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
40	in **Ward No. 41, 42 & 43,** Bhireshwara Nagara Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **7.38,** EMD (in Rs.): **9,225/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**
41	in **Ward No. 40 & 52,** Anjanapura Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **4.92,** EMD (in Rs.): **12,300/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
42	in **Ward No. 44 , 45 & 48,** Konnakunte Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **7.38,** EMD (in Rs.): **18,450/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
43	in **Ward No. 46 & 47,** Yalachenahalli Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **4.92,** EMD (in Rs.): **12,300/-,** Category / Reserved for: **Others.**
44	in **Ward No. 49, 50 & 51,** Uttarahalli Sub Division. Approximate Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): **7.38,** EMD (in Rs.): **9,225/-,** Category / Reserved for: **SC.**

Calendar of events: **(1)** Uploading of tender documents from **21.05.2026. (2)** Last date for uploading the filled tender document is **01.06.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (3)** Date of Technical bid opening of tenders is on **02.06.2026 after 4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division,
Bengaluru South City Corporation

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"We are planning to win every match. It's not that we are waiting for the last two matches to win. Every game is important for us and we are trying to win.

V RATHOUR, RR BATTING COACH

Steely Sunrisers seal the deal

Kishan, Cummins shine to take Hyderabad into playoffs

CHENNAI, PTI

Ishan Kishan struck a fluent 70 after Pat Cummins displayed his mastery over length and pace with a three-wicket burst as Sunrisers Hyderabad ensured an IPL 2026 playoffs berth with a smooth five-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings here on Monday.

Chasing 181 was never going to be easy on a slowish Chepauk track. But Kishan, who hammered seven fours and three sixes in his 47-ball knock, and an equally enterprising Heinrich Klaasen (47 off 26 balls) added 75 runs for the third wicket, powering Hyderabad to 181 for five in 19 overs.

SRH now have 16 points with a game in hand -- good enough to carry them to the playoffs and the night's result meant that Gujarat Titans (16 points) also marched into the knockouts.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (18 points) have already sealed their place in the playoffs, leaving other contenders to fight it out for the lone remaining place. The Super Kings, who have 12 points from 13 matches, also are not yet completely out of the race to the knockouts.

Cutting back to the match, the Sunrisers did not have a particularly bright beginning to the chase, losing Travis Head early.

Abhishek Sharma too struggled for his timing, crawling to a 21-ball 26 as SRH could not find momentum in the Powerplay, which they ended on 45 for one. But once Klaasen, who was dropped on 18 by Spencer Johnson off Noor Ahmad, joined Kishan, the complexion of the game changed.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Sanju Samson c Kishan b Cummins 27, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Malinga b Cummins 15, Urvil Patel b Hussain 13, Kartik Sharma c Nitish b Cummins 32, Dewald Brevis b Malinga 44, Shivam Dube b Hussain 26, Prashant Veer c&b Hinge 11, Akeal Hosein (not out) 3. Extras (W-8, NB-1) 9. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs) 180.**

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-48, 3-90, 4-100, 5-159, 6-164, 7-180.

Bowling: Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-0-35-0, Praful Hinge 3-0-37-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-28-3, Eshan Malinga 4-0-26-1, Sakib Hussain 4-0-34-2, Shivang Kumar 3-0-20-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma c Johnson b Hosein 26, Travis Head c&b Choudhary 6, Ishan Kishan c Urvil b Kamboj 70, Heinrich Klaasen st Samson b Noor 47, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Urvil b Choudhary 11, Salil Arora (not out) 10, R Smaran (not out) 5. Extras (w-6) 6. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 19 overs) 181.**

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-56, 3-131, 4-153, 5-175

Bowling: Mukesh Choudhary 4-0-36-2, Spencer Johnson 3-0-26-0, Anshul Kamboj 4-0-46-1, Noor Ahmad 4-0-40-1, Akeal Hosein 3-0-21-1, Shivam Dube 1-0-12-0.

Result: SRH won by 5 wkts

PoM: Ishan Kishan

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Ishan Kishan smashed a 47-ball 70 against Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. PTI

The duo neutralised CSK spinners -- Akeal Hossain and Ahmad -- with exemplary shot-making and foot work during their alliance as SRH closed in on the target.

Kishan completed his 50 in 37 balls but lost Klaasen to a brilliant stumping by Sanju Samson off Ahmad. However, the left-hander, who played some brilliant shots around the field, converted that fifty into something more substantial to drive his side's charge.

However, he was not there to take SRH home as he fell to Anshul Kamboj but by then the 2016 champions needed just six runs to win.

Padikkal 2.0: Where clarity meets confidence

RCB southpaw opens up about going unsold, playing Test cricket

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
DH NEWS SERVICE

Not too long ago, there were those who wondered if Devdutt Padikkal's IPL career would take off. After the 2024 season, Padikkal wondered if he would land a contract following a forgettable campaign with the Lucknow Super Giants, where he scored 38 runs in seven games at an average of 5.43.

By the time IPL mega auction arrived in November 2024, he had even made "peace" with himself that he may not turn up for the IPL.

It wasn't the end of the world, but it was enough to question his batting blueprint: could he keep up with the demands of T20 cricket?

What followed was a return to Royal Challengers Bengaluru where he was picked on the second day of the auction, and 18 months on, the redemption looks complete. Excerpts from an interaction.

How tough was it to deal with thoughts of going unsold on the first day of the auction?
It was weird. That's the only way to put it, because playing in the BGT Test in Perth was something I'm really proud of. However, IPL is such a huge part of an Indian cricketer's journey. It was odd. But as I said, I wasn't sure that I was going to get picked.

RCB's Devdutt Padikkal has scored 412 runs at a strike rate of 173.11 in 13 games this season. PTI FILE PHOTO

What were your emotions when you got picked by RCB? Was there relief?
Hundred per cent. I always wanted to be part of the IPL. This is the platform where you can improve because you're surrounded by great players and coaches. It was very important for me to be here. As you can see, it's clearly helped.

What were the conversations with the RCB management after you were picked?
We had a couple of camps in Bengaluru once the auction happened. We had Andy (Flower), Mo (Bobat) and DK (Dinesh Karthik), and they were clear about what they wanted. We worked on technique, but more importantly, they gave me confidence which I lacked. Gave me clarity. They made me believe that the strengths in my game can outweigh the weaknesses. They believed in my ability to strike from ball one, and that put me in a better frame of mind. I wanted to make an effort to change the way I played.

There's been a surge in your strike-rates, especially in the first 10 balls. Can you take us through that evolution over the last two years?
Obviously a few years ago, my template was that I wanted to make sure I played the first 10 balls, get myself in and then find boundaries. Now I'm looking to find boundaries from the beginning. That mentality shift is not that easy to make because it means you have to be okay sometimes not being consistent. But it is important to make that shift.

You spoke about your ambitions to play all three formats for India. What do you think are the next steps in achieving these aspirations?
If you don't believe that you should be playing for the country, then you are probably not doing the right thing. I am continuously working towards that. You have to keep working hard, keep scoring runs. I am really happy with where I am with my game. I am improving every day. I am getting better at what I want to get better at. As long as I am doing that, I think I will be on the right path.

SRH take along GT to playoffs

RR, CSK, PBKS, KKR fight for lone spot

With three teams locking in their playoffs spots, the fight now narrows to four teams for the last remaining berth. DH takes a look at what the contenders need to do to make the cut.

Sunrisers (16 points)

The win against CSK has secured their playoff spot. A win against RCB on Friday will keep them in hunt for a top-two finish as GT also have a chance of finishing with 18.

Remaining: Vs RCB (May 22)

Punjab Kings (13 points)

Having lost six games on the bounce, once pole-sitters Punjab need a win against LSG on Saturday to stay alive and hope the chasing pack drops points.

Remaining: Vs LSG (May 23)

Super Kings (12 points)

Beating GT on Thursday will take them to 14 but they will have to hope PBKS, RR and DC lose their final games and KKR at least one of their last two.

Remaining: Vs GT (May 21)

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	1.065
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.400
Sunrisers (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.350
Punjab Kings	13	6	6	1	13	0.227
Rajasthan Royals	12	6	6	0	12	0.027
Chennai Super Kings	13	6	7	0	12	-0.016
Delhi Capitals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	6	1	11	-0.038
Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	0	8	-0.504
Lucknow Super Giants	12	4	8	0	8	-0.701

Kolkata Knight Riders (11 points)

Despite a torrid start, KKR have managed to stay in the race with a strong second-half show. Although they are at the bottom of the race, they could still qualify if they win their two remaining games and others drop points.

Remaining: Vs MI (May 20), Vs DC (May 24)

Gujarat Titans (16 points)

With SRH's win over CSK, GT have joined RCB and SRH in the playoffs. If they win their final match against CSK, they stand a good chance of finishing in the top two.

Remaining: Vs CSK (May 21)

Rajasthan Royals (12 points)

RR will have to beat an already eliminated LSG and MI in their final two games to secure their knockout passage.

Remaining: Vs LSG (May 19), Vs MI (May 24)

Delhi Capitals (12 points)

By the time DC play KKR in the final league game of the season, they'll know whether they are in contention or not. DC too need much of the chasing pack to drop points and then hope for a big win against KKR.

Remaining: Vs KKR (May 24)

Royals seek all-round improvement

JAIPUR, PTI

Their playoff hopes hanging by a thread, the Rajasthan Royals will need an all-round improvement against the out-of-contention Lucknow Super Giants to stay alive in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

At the high-scoring Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Royals are yet to win a game this season and the final fixture here is a do or die one for the home team.

Following Tuesday's fixture, the Royals' last game is also against a vanquished outfit -- the Mumbai Indians.

In Delhi on Sunday night, RR should have out-batted Delhi Capitals but a lower order collapse cost them the match in which their fielding and bowling was also fairly ordinary.

Rajasthan Royals have been relying heavily on 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for flying starts but the youngster has not got enough support from Yashasvi Jaiswal at the other end.

Skipper Riyan Parag will look to lead Rajasthan Royals from the front in their must-win game against LSG. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

Dhruv Jurel has played some sublime knocks but the one on Sunday night was a rather subdued one with wickets falling at the other end.

Captain Riyan Parag was underwhelming in the first half of the IPL but has picked up pace in the recent games. He would want his side to be much more clinical in the last five overs with the bat.

The catching and fielding have generally been poor in the IPL and Rajasthan Royals too have been guilty of grassing easy chances in the season so far.

Post the loss to Delhi Capitals, Parag had expressed his frustration with the team not playing to its potential in the business end of the tournament.

"The fielding was poor. If we keep on playing like this, we shouldn't be in contention for the top four," Parag had stated while acknowledging that the team's fate is no longer in its own hands.

"I think that's depending on a lot of other teams as well. That is not how I like to lead. That is not how I like to speak to my team as well," he admitted when talking about the playoff chances.

"So if we do not qualify, it's our fault. No-one else's. And yeah, next two games, we'll see what we can do better and hopefully get two wins," added Parag, who has been nursing a hamstring niggle.

LSG, dealing with issues of their own, come into the game on the back of a rare win in the tournament.

Meditating maverick: Smith's return from the brink

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

One moment, Keegan Smith is at his aggressive best -- sending down serves ranging beyond 200 kms/hr and ripping groundstrokes from all corners of the tennis court. In the very next moment, during changeovers, the 6-foot-7-inch American is seen with his eyes closed, spine upright, arms resting on his thighs as he inhales and exhales peacefully.

"Life is not easy. Tennis is tough. Meditating and breathing the right way keeps me calm," Smith tells *DH*, who is in Bengaluru competing at the back-to-back ATP 50 Challenger events. "It detaches me from the future as well. Like, worrying about what will happen," he adds.

The 27-year-old's spiritual, yoga-practicing, meditating maverick self may seem odd on a tennis court, but those who know him well will understand Smith's need for detachment and deep thinking as these traits were triggered following a near-death experience.

Smith began playing tennis when he was five years old and was always an avid skateboarder. The hobby, however, turned disastrous when the San Diego man suffered a freak fall while on his board, leading to a moderate traumatic brain injury and haematoma. He was found unconscious on the street and hospitalised for over a week.

Smith was back on tennis court a little over a month after the mishap, won an ITF M15 title a few months later and got back to top-350 in the world within a year, showing remarkable fighting spirit. Currently, the right-hander won the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger here on Saturday as the top seed to reach a career-high of 245. He is hoping to go all the way again at the SM Krishna Memorial this week.

For all his tenacity, however, it has taken Smith years to accept and let go of the difficult phase.

USA's Keegan Smith was spotted meditating between games during the Karnataka Open last week. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

"I had a blood clot in my brain and broke my temporal bone (which deals with hearing and balance). I still have frequent headaches, a lot of neck and back pain. I wouldn't remember things and took time to process and express things. But I'm in a much better place now.

"I went to a neurologist and a chiropractic center in Atlanta, Georgia. They have many eye movement drills that can improve our brain function and help us recover. The chiropractors worked on my head and neck. Recently, at my training facility at Moore Tennis Academy in Shanghai, China, I would go into an oxygen chamber and sit in there for a couple of hours."

All along his upward climb, Smith says yoga and meditation have been constant companions to handle the pressures of the Tour and life in general.

"My brother got me into yoga in high school. And now I love meditating, just sitting down. That's why I was excited to come to India. I visited Ramakrishna Math almost everyday last week. I want to go to ISKCON this week.

"Doing all this helps me understand the energies around me. It helps me read situations in a match or the opponent better. Yeah, I do feel lucky to be here," smiles Smith.

A good second week here in the city will in all likelihood help Smith enter the top-200 on the ATP ranking chart. That would ensure his entry into the Wimbledon qualifiers beginning June 22. But the self-proclaimed 'observer of his surroundings' is planning another pitstop in India before heading out.

"A friend told me about a mountain I need to visit in Shi...? Shillong! I will mostly go there and then fly to England to start the grass court season," he offers.

Kshitij reaches main draw on rain-hit opening day

Rain played spoilsport on the opening day of main action at the SM Krishna Memorial Open ATP 50 Challenger, forcing all the five singles and one doubles match to be suspended on Monday, reports DHNS.

Indians Karan Singh, Digvijaypratap Singh and Mukund Sasikumar's matches were halted midway through first-round singles encounters.

Earlier, wildcard Aradhya Kshitij stormed into the main draw.

The Bengaluru youngster defeated eighth seed Nitin Kumar Sinha 7-6 (2), 6-4 in the final qualifier.

Nikin's 198 powers Sir Syed Cricketers to big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: SJ Nikin Jose hammered an unbeaten 198 as Sir Syed Cricketers defeated Lions Cricket Club by 252 runs in the KSCA YS Ramasawamy Memorial Trophy for Group I - II, III division and qualifiers from 4th & 5th division clubs.

Brief scores: Sir Syed Cricketers: 373/4 in 50 overs (SJ Nikin Jose 198 n.o., Mohith BA 66, Luvnith Sisodia 46, Shreyank Sagar 36 n.o.; R Chandrasekaran 2-62, Priyanshu Tripathi 2-39) bt Lions CC: 121 all out in 28.1 overs (R Chandrasekaran 25; Kushaal Mahesh Wadhwani 3-5, Monish Reddy 2-35, Jayanth R Gowda 2-30).

RVCE Gymkhana: 221 all out in 48.2 overs (Adhithyan S 83, Adarsh Rangappa 26; Goutham Mishra 4-57, S Suraj 2-17) lt to Coles: 227/5 in 31.2 overs (Gowtham Sagar 55, Yuvraj A 34, Lankesh KS 31 n.o., Sagar Solanki 26).

Malleswaram United: 159 all out in 44 overs (Punith HA 80, Faizan Saif 27; Keerthi M 3-26, Aevant P Khothari 2-20, Vineeth B 2-32, Pranesh Desai 2-42) lt to Dooravani Cricketers (1): 160/3 in 24.3 overs (Aarav Shriyan 54 n.o., Shivu M 54).

Vultures: 244/5 in 50 overs (CR Kumarswamy 79, Kruthik Krishna 54 n.o., Srujan Nandan 44; Shivohum Gupta 2-40) bt Spartons: 104 all out in 38.5 overs (Abhishek Ahlawat 4-36, Rahul Bellad 2-13, Shikhar Shetty 2-6).

Modern CC: 307/7 in 50 overs (Ansh Aima 124, Praneeth Shetty 72, Aditya Gundalli 30; Pradyumna Srivatsa 2-48, Kishan Kumar 2-43) bt Jawahar SC (2): 200 all out in 44 overs (Naresh 46; Siddant Navale 4-47, Rohiet SSG 3-39, Ansh Aima 2-43).

The Bangalore Cricketers: 260 all out in 49.5 overs (Rakshith K 62, KB Shreyas 54, Bhushan DS 43, Saurav P Samant 40; Guru Prasad M 5-51, Monish S 2-36) bt Bharath CC: 238 all out in 45.5 overs (Hemang Srinivasan 47, Vivek Singh 41, Bharath D 32 n.o., Samyak P Patil 29; Rakshith K 3-45, Gourav P 2-39, Saurav P Samant 2-32).

Swastic Union (2): 317/6 in 50 overs (Vishal Onat 111 n.o., Sujay S 72, Ravi Kairav Reddy 42, Vijaya Raj B 33, Md. Taha 30; Samarth MP 3-53, Chetan Rangraj 2-36) bt Jawahar SC (1): 186 all out in 38.2 overs (Surya Srinivas 45, Premnath J Gode 39, Nikhil Aithal 33 n.o.,; Manvanth Kumar L 4-33, Hardik Raj 2-48, Mitrakant Yadav 2-21).

Sparklers: 158 all out in 33.1 overs (Koushik AN 38, Aadyot Pandey 33; Shridhar Jagatap 3-21, Sujay S Kulkarni 2-25, Nithish Gowda S 2-41) lt to Jupiter CA: 161/9 in 32 overs (Udhay Girish 42; Gorli Durga Prasad 3-30, Eyann Grover 3-30, Mohammed Shamsheer 2-24).

Sapphire: 148 all out in 40.2 overs (Thrivarna Sagar 67; Ayaan Kumar 3-26, Dhareppa R Dhanger 2-23, Hriddhiman Basu 2-32) lt to Visweswarapuram (1): 154/2 in 19 overs (Nishith Raj 61, Harshil Arigala 54 n.o.).

Magadi: 251 all out in 47.1 overs (Yashmith K Gowda 97, Sachin AM 41, Mann Bhati 38, Jayanth Krishnamurthy 35, Sarafraj M Ilabad 20; Sumanth 3-42, Aryan 3-29, Bhuvan Gowda N 2-52) lt to Cavaliers Cricket Club: 252/5 in 40 overs (Samith Prabhu 97, Ishaan Nayak 54, Mokhit KS 27; Mann Bhati 3-58).

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